Looke beyond Luther:

OR AN

ANSWERE TO THAT QVESTION, SO OFTEN AND SO INSVLTINGLY PROPOSED BY our Aduerſaries, asking vs; *Where this our Religion was before* Luthers *time?*

WHEREVNTO ARE ADDED SOVND PROPS TO BEARE vp honeſt-hearted Proteſtants, that they fall not from their ſauing-faith.

BY RICHARD BERNARD, OF *Batcombe* in *Sommerſetſhire.*

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Great friend

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFVLL,

Sir WALTER ERLE, | Sir CLEMENT COTTEREL,

KNIGHTS:

And to their vertuous Ladies, euer-ſoundneſſe of Faith, with the power of Religion and conſtancie, in both moſt heartie wiſhed.

Right Worſhipfull,

I Should maruell to ſee any once profeſſing the truth, to turne from the light vnto darkenes, from the true Worſhip and Religion of Chriſt, to the ſuperſtition and idolatrie of Antichriſt, ſt but that I read, that our firſt parents beleeued Satan before God; that men loue darkeneſſe more then the light, and that for not louing the truth, and delighting in vnrighteouſneſſe, God giueth ſuch ouer to beleeue lyes, that they may bee damned. Could it elſe otherwiſe bee, that ſo many in this ſo cleare light of Gods Goſpell, ſhould fall away? What haue our aduerſaries now more to plead for their cauſe, then heretofore they haue had? What can they now ſay, which is not alreadie

fully anſwered by our learned men? They put out indeed new bookes, now in regard of the writing and printing; but the reaſons one and the ſame in older written and printed bookes: this is in ſhew a putting of more ſtrength, to vphold their ruinous building, but not in ſubſtance: yet thus they beguile the ſimple and vnſtable-minded. By many waies they ſeeke to deceiue, and beguile people, but eſpecially by accuſing our Religion of falſhood and nouelty, and affirming theirs to be the true and moſt ancient faith: in both which they ſpeake very vntruely For touching this their preſent Religion (as it differeth from ours, & as it is Popery) it is but a new vpſtart Religion, a patcherie of Iudaiſme, Paganiſme and Hereſie; a Religion deuiſed by men, and not hauing God for the Author. How farre our Religion is from falſhood and nouelrie, I haue here indeuoured to ſhew, anſwering to that queſtion ſo often propounded, Where it was before Luthers *time?*

If any of our aduerſaries, or all of them together, dare to go plainely to worke, (for hitherto they haue not) and firſt ſet downe ours and their accord, wherein, and how farre we and they in euery thing doe agree, to cut off hereby all needleſſe ſtrife and contentions. Secondly, then truely and faithfully without equiuocall termes, to deliuer their diſtinct differences from vs, that ſo euery one may rightly diſcerne, whereabout we do contend, and what indeed their now preſent Religion is, which we call Popery, being ſeuered from our common agreement. Thirdly, to bring theſe their differences to the due trial of Scriptures, the common principles of Chriſtianitie, and the true writings of the ancient Fathers in the firſt ages; then wil it clearely appeare to euery one of indifferent iudgement, whether ours or theirs be the true Religion, and whether ours or theirs be the falſe Church.

In the meane ſpace, till they proceede thus vprightly and ſincerely, I hope, no Proteſtant in earneſt, *will be inſnared and*

and catched by their deceits. Let ſuch as in the plentifull meanes of knowledge wilfully liue in ignorance, or hauing knowledge, liue lewdly, without feare of God, loue of truth, and power of Religion, be the prey for crafty Foxes: for theſe be the fitteſt ſubiects for them to worke vpon; and theſe only preuaile they with, receiuing a iuſt puniſhment for their contempt of ſauing knowledge, or for their conſcienceleſſe liuing contrary to their knowledge. For there is no man of right vnderſtanding, & that makes conſcience of his waies, loueing the truth, walking humbly before his God, being acquainted with Gods Word, and praying for Gods direction, that God either will giue ouer, or that can in reaſon ſubmit vnto this falſe Antichriſtian Church, if he do but ſeriouſly conſider of ſuch things as will worke, if not an abſolute condemnation, yet a moſt iuſt ſuſpicion of her to be nought; as firſt, the vilifying of holy Scriptures, locking them vp from the common people, as if Gods Word were infectious. Secondly, her thruſting vpon the people her feigned traditions, all beſides, and many of them againſt Scripture. Thirdly, the abſurd and vnreaſonableneſſe of their Latine Seruice, which the people vnderſtand not. Fourthly, their idolatrous praying to Saints, worſhipping ſtockes and ſtones, and reliques of the dead. Fifthly, their groſſe conceit of Chriſts corporall preſence in the Sacrament. Sixthly, the feigned miracles, and notable coozenages therin, found out here, and in other Countries; the boaſting of them a farre off, but not able to worke the like among vs. Seuenthly, the ſhameleſſe & groſſe belying of our doctrine, and ſlandring the liues of our learned men, as Luther, Caluin, Beza, *and others. Eightly, the citing in defence of their Religion counterfeit Authors, ſo knowne to be, and ſo condemned to be by the learned on their owne ſide. Ninthly, the not permitting freely our bookes among them, as we doe theirs among vs. Tenthly, the tying of the people to the Prieſts lippes, and not*

permitting

permitting them to try their doctrine, as we doe. The vniust curses, dissembling practices, and mercilesse cruelties vsed to vphold their Religion, swearing & forswearing, by equiuocations, mentall reseruations, and Popes dispensations, massacres, and powder-plots, and bloodie persecutions. Twelfthly, The auoyding of a free generall Councell, to heare and determine our differences. Who is he that shall consider of these things with iudgement, but will suspect this Romish Church to be none of Christs Church, if withal he adde hereto, the consideration of the differences betweene the wisedome below (by which that Seate is guided) which is earthly, naturall, sensuall & deuilish, and the wisdome from aboue (by which Christs Church is guided) which is pure, peaceable, gentle, easie, to be intreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisie, as Saint Iames *writeth?*

I doubt not but that you haue already considered of these premisses, and that you are resolued, that this is the true Religion, and the good way, wherein you walke, euen the ancient, Catholike and Apostolike veritie, grounded vpon Scripture, and the principles of Christianity, taught by the holy Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and confirmed by the blood of blessed Martyrs. My desire is, that God would continue your loue, with encrease of zeale toward the same more and more. To this purpose are these my endeuours, which I present vnto you, praying your fauourable acceptance of my good meaning, and hearty wel-wishes, and worthy respect vnto your selues, and to all that wish well to Sion, and pray for the peace of Ierusalem: God let them, and you with yours, to prosper which loue it. Amen.

Batcombe, Sept. 26. *Richard Bernard.*

Looke beyond Luther:

OR

AN ANSWERE TO THAT QVESTION SO often, and so insultingly proposed by our Aduersaries, asking vs; *VVhere this our Religion was, before* Luthers *time?*

IT is a common question, and often propounded by Papists in an insulting manner ouer vs, Where our Religion was before *Luthers* time? As though wee could not answere to the demand, nor fetch our Religion from any more ancient, or better Author: but they are deceiued in both. And that I may not be tedious in prefacing, I answere:

I. It was, and is written, and contained in the holy Scriptures, the Canonicall Bookes of the old and new Testament.

II. The same hath been, and is written in the hearts of Gods people, such as the Lord from time to time effectually hath called, according to euery mans measure, as they haue bin taught it, and learned it out of those books of holy Scripture. For this must we know, that no other doctrine of Christian Religion was, or is written in mens hearts, by Gods Spirit, then that which the same Spirit inspired the

Pen-men of the Scriptures to write in those Bookes. The necessary truths of doctrine therein contained (as God had promised) hath he written in the hearts of his people, *Ier.* 31,33,34. 2. *Cor.* 3. 3. And for these ends, that they might know God, and know him to bee their God, and they his people, *Ierem.* 31. 33, 34. that they might make profession thereof, and obediently set themselues to the practice of that his blessed will, *Ezech.* 11.19,20. & 36.26,27.

III. That it was also written in learned mens labours, agreeing with those holy Bookes, as they found the truth therein, taught vnto them by the Prophets and Apostles. So as the doctrine of our Religion is no other, then that which the Scriptures doe teach, the Church and true People of God haue beleeued, and professed; nor no other then that, which is to be found in the writings of ỹ holy ancient Fathers, and of learned men, before euer *Luther* was borne.

That our Religion was thus before *Luthers* time, I proue by these ensuing reasons.

I. *Argument.*

From holy Scriptures, wherein our Religion is written and taught in euery poynt.

THat Religion which is in all and euery poynt thereof written, and prescribed in holy Scriptures, the Canonicall bookes of the old and new Testament, was before Luthers *time.* For the Scriptures were written many hundred yeeres, before *Luther* was in being, and the Pen-men thereof had a care to practise the same.

But this our present Religion in all and euery poynt thereof (wherein we differ from our Aduersaries) is written and prescribed in the holy Scriptures, the Canonicall bookes of the old and new Testament; as is in euery particular poynt prooued exactly by those of our side.

And therefore was is before Luthers *time.* The Minor I thus proue.

I. By the publike Records of our Church here at home,

as

as the publike authorized Catechiſme, ſhorter and larger, by the booke of Homilies, by the booke of Articles, and our booke of Common-prayer. Out of which (wherein ſoeuer we differ from our Aduerſaries) nothing is found beſides, as wanting warrant of Scripture, much leſſe any thing contrary thereunto, but euery thing grounded vpon, and fully agreeing with the ſame.

II. By Gods Spirit, the Author of the Scriptures, which doth further our Religion in the hearts of the people, through the reading and interpreting thereof, which the Spirit of God would not doe, if our Religion were not that which the Scriptures teach. For would the Author of the one, approue of the other, if they were not both one? If hee ſhould further a Religion contrary to the Scripture, hee ſhould be contrary to himſelfe, allowing and making good that in mens hearts by inward operation, which he hath diſallowed by the Scriptures, which are of his diuine inſpiration. It is euident to all that are read in the Scriptures, that they condemne all Heatheniſh, all Heretical, & Idolatrous Religion; likewiſe, all will-worſhip, all vaine inuentions of men, the ſeruing of God by humane traditions, by the precepts and doctrines of men: ſo as if our Religion were any ſuch, Gods Spirit would not grace it, nor ſo knit mens harts vnto it, nor ſo effectually worke by it in mens conſciences, nor ſo perſwade vnto it, as he daily doth by the Scriptures.

If they ſhall deny, that Gods Spirit doth any ſuch thing, as we ſuppoſe; I would faine know of them, what other ſpirit it poſſibly may be, that doth ſo leade men to eſteeme ſo much the Scriptures, doth excite men to the ſtudy of them, and to make them the onely rule of doctrine, and life, to heare, belieue, reſt and delight in them, and ſo to worſhip God onely, as herein he requireth to be worſhipped, and to reiect whatſoeuer is not warranted by them, in euery neceſſary poynt of faith? And that onely vpon this perſwaſion, that the Scriptures are Gods Word, that they are indited by his Spirit, and written by his holy Prophets and Apoſtles? If this be not the Spirit of God, which doth thus magnifie the

holy Scriptures in the heart of euery ſound Chriſtian, what ſpirit then is it? Certainely it muſt bee either the Spirit of God, or of Man, or of the Diuell. But neither of theſe two latter, therefore the former.

I. It is not the ſpirit of man that can, and doth thus worke: for firſt, the ſpirit of man perceiueth not the things of God, till Gods Spirit acquaint him with them. Secondly, they be fooliſhneſſe vnto him. Thirdly, his wiſedome is enmitie with God, ſo as Gods wiſdome in diuine myſteries, and mans wiſdome can neuer agree in one. Fourthly, the ſpirit of man ſauoureth the things of the fleſh, and not of the Spirit of God. Fifthly, his heart is continually euill, til he be regenerate. Sixthly and laſtly, it is euidently knowne by too much miſerable experience, that man loueth not the ſtudy of the Scriptures, hee cannot delight in them, hee cannot away to frame his life after them: euery one that hath any ſparke of diuine knowledge, knoweth this to bee true from his owne naturall corruption, both in himſelfe and others alſo. Now can any reaſonable-minded man thinke, that ſuch an auerſe ſpirit as is in man, ſo diſaffecting the holy Scriptures, and the ſtudy thereof, that it can bee that Spirit which perſwadeth and draweth men, contrary to it corrupt ſelfe, to imbrace that Religion which is grounded vpon the Scriptures, and to preſſe to the obedience thereof? Yea, can it bee mans ſpirit, that worketh loue to ſuch a Religion, which ſo oppoſeth mans corruption, as the worldly wiſe Politician derideth it, the pleaſurable man hateth it, the greedy of gaine cannot abide to bee ruled by it, and the haughty ſpirit which hunteth after the pride of life, hath it in great contempt? ſo as none in very deed, but onely ſuch as doe deny themſelues, doe forſake the world, and can bee well contented to take vp their croſſe, and follow Chriſt, either can, or will imbrace the ſame.

1. Cor. 2. 11.
1. Cor. 2. 14.
Rom. 8. 7.
Verſe 5.

II. It is not the ſpirit of Satan. For although hee will abuſiuely now and then alleage Scripture, yet is he a deadly enemy to the Scriptures: hee will not leade to the right vſe of them, nor perſwade men to frame their Religion and life after

after them, but rather doth suggest the cleane contrary, as the storie of the Scriptures witnesseth, and our owne temptations tell vs. For, as a Father saith, The Diuell cannot endure to haue any to study the Scriptures; that is torment and paine aboue all paines to him. He hath euer been a raiser vp of persecution against such, as serue God in a Religion onely grounded vpon the Scriptures: as hee was in the Iewes, against the Apostles, and the beleeuing Gentiles; so in Gentiles Iofidels, against Christians; in the Heretikes against the Orthodoxall; in our Antichristian Aduersaries against vs; and in all lewde liuers, the children of disobedience, in whom he beareth rule, and whoso hearts he stirreth vp to doe his will against all such, as in a more strict manner endeuour to frame their liues after Gods Word, though in generall together, they professe one God, and haue receiued the same Baptisme, and doe liue together in the same Church. Therefore wee see, that it cannot be the spirit of Satan, that perswadeth to our so holy a Religion by the Scriptures, vpon which onely it is settled, seeing he so deadly hateth such a Religion, and the sound and zealous Professours thereof. *Origen* vpon Numb.

III. It is not the spirit of man and Satan together, as may appeare, first, *in Heretikes*, who are led by Satan, and their owne spirit. These being not able to iustifie their heresies by holy Scriptures, they fall to weaken the authoritie of the Scriptures; they will not rest on them, but doe flie the light of them, as *Tertullian*, and other ancient Fathers witnesse of Heretikes in their times, who left the Scriptures, and ran to Traditions, as did the Manichees, Cerynthians, Basilidians, Carpocratians, Marcionists, Valentinians, Arians, and others. Secondly, *In all will-worshippers*, which framing a seruice to God out of their owne braines, cannot away to make holy Scriptures their guide, but doe leane them as soone as they be addicted to their owne inuentions, of course which, God by his Prophets in Scripture often complaines. Thirdly, *In Heathen Idolaters*, who haue been set on worke by the Deuill to burne the Scriptures, as did that wicked *Tertul. de veslur. Carnis. Epiphan. de Hæres. lib. 1. cap. 23, 24, 38. Ire li. 1. cap. 23. Tertul. de præscript. Athana. orat. 2. contra Arianos.*

Diocleſian; alſo here in Brittaine, the Infidell Saxons; and
Ier. 36. in Ieruſalem, that vngodly *Iehoiakim*, who burnt the Prophecie of *Ieremiah*, which *Baruch* writ from his mouth at that time. Fourthly, *In our Aduerſaries now*, who cannot reſt with the Scriptures, nor will admit them, as the only Iudge in controuerſies, nor as the onely Rule of Religion. And the very reaſon is, becauſe they teach and practiſe many things out of their owne ſpirit, euen the doctrine of Deuils, which the Scripture vtterly condemneth. Their Sainted will-worſhippers in their Heremeticall life, and their world of Monkiſh Orders, cannot abide the rule of Scripture; their holy courſe of life ſo much admired and extolled (yet onely of ſuch as know not the power of Satan, in the deceiueable wayes of his vnrighteouſneſſe) dares not ſtand to be iudged, ruled, and ſquared after the rule of holy Scriptures: yea, as holy as they pretend to bee, yet neither can they, nor will they wholly frame their ſeruice and deuotion, and life after the Word of life. And therefore wee ſee, that it cannot be the ſpirit of Man and Satan, whether apart conſidered or conioyned, that doth perſwade, mooue and further to the embracing of that Religion, which is wholly grounded vpon the Scriptures, as ours is. And therefore not being either of theſe, it followeth, that it muſt needs be the Spirit of God, that thus perſwadeth men to our Religion by the Scriptures, wherein it is contained.

III. Our Religion appeareth to be written in, and iuſtified by the Scriptures, for that in thoſe places it getteth entrance, and thriueth, where they are permitted to be ſtudied, and read of all, and to be taught, as the onely rule of Religion. The Scriptures are the very life and ſtrength of our Religion, as is ſufficiently knowne by experience to our very Aduerſaries. Now, how could this be, if our Religion were not that, which is taught in the Scriptures? For the Scripture, as is aforeſaid, doth condemne Heretikes & Hereſies, will-worſhip and will-worſhippers, idolatry and idolaters;
2 Theſſa. and is the Sword of the Spirit, the breath of Chriſts mouth, that conſumeth the Man of Sinne. If our Religion were

hereſie,

hereſie, or will-worſhip, or idolatry, or the inuention of that Man of ſin, the Scriptures could not be the life and ſtrength thereof, ſeeing they oppoſe, and vtterly condemne all ſuch things.

IV. Our Religion ſtandeth, and is vpheld by ſuch holy and heauenly meanes onely, as the Scriptures allow and preſcribe, and which we finde there to be the only meanes, vſed at the firſt planting of Chriſtian Religion by the Apoſtles in the Primitiue Church, which were theſe that follow.

I. There was then *the preaching of Gods Word*. This meane was preſcribed by our Sauiour Chriſt, to make Diſciples vnto him, *Mat.* 28. 19, 20. and the ſame obſerued by his Apoſtles, *Mark.* 16. 15, 20. *Acts* 2. 14. & 10. 34. & 11. 19. So preaching of Gods Word is the meanes, by which our Religion, through Gods bleſſing, is planted in mens hearts. As alſo it was foretold and appointed, that it ſhould be the meanes to regaine people from ſelfe Antichriſt, *Reuel.* 10. 11. & 14. 6.

II. There was *the teaching of the grounds, and principles of Chriſtianity*, then called *milke*, now commonly called, *the Catechiſme*, *Heb.* 6. 2. & 5. 12, 13. *Cor.* 3. 2. This hath greatly furthered our Religion, euen by the confeſſion of our Aduerſaries, and is a ſpeciall meanes to informe the minds of the ignorant, in the truth of our Religion, that they may not be deceiued. In the Popes Bull before the Catechiſme of the Councell of Trent.

III. Then was *teaching and preaching altogether out of the Scriptures* of the Prophets. The Apoſtles taught the Goſpell onely out of them, *Rom.* 1. 2. *Acts* 26. 22. & 28. 23. the Scriptures they cited, *Acts* 1. 16. & 2. 16, 17. by them they confuted the Aduerſaries, *Acts* 17. 2. & 18. 28. So our teaching and preaching is out of the Scriptures of the Prophets and Apoſtles: by theſe we confirme our doctrine, and by theſe chiefly doe we confute our Aduerſaries.

IV. Then was allowed *the vſe of the holy Scriptures indifferently to all ſorts, without reſtraint or exception*, they were free to all of the Laity, both men and women. The Apoſtles neuer

neuer forbade them to any, nor euer reproued any for reading or studying of them, but commended them to all sorts, 2. *Tim.* 3. 14, 16. 2. *Pet.* 1. 19, 20, 21. and 'tis written, as a matter worthy praise in religious men, the Eunuch, and the Noble Bereans, that they read and searched the Scriptures; so also in godly women for training vp their children herein, *Acts* 8. 30. & 17. 11. 2. *Tim.* 1. 5. & 3. 15. Yea, *Peter* (whom our Aduersaries make their Rocke) in generall teacheth all Christian beleeuers, that they should do well to take heed thereunto, as to a sure Word, 2. *Pet.* 1. 19. So is there here with vs, the free vse of the Scriptures; this wee commend to all sorts, forbid them to none, but rather hold them most religious, who delight in the holy and reuerent studie of the Scriptures, according to the practice of the ancient Primitiue Church in the Apostles dayes.

V. Then were there *publike Assemblies*, where they met together, *Iustin.* 11. 18, 19. *Acts* 9. 13. & 16. 40. and that vpon the first day of the weeke, *Acts* 20. 7. 1. *Cor.* 16. 2. These Assemblies none might forsake, but all were mutually to exhort to the frequent vse of them, *Heb.* 10. 25. to beware of causing diuisions and offences, contrary to the receiued doctrine of the Apostles, *Rom.* 16. 17. So haue wee publike Assemblies, where we meet on the first day of the weeke, and at other times, which all are bound to come vnto, and none ought to forsake, to preuent diuisions, contrary to the Apostolicall doctrine, and to preserue the publike profession and exercise of our Religion.

VI. Then was there *set ouer euery seuerall Assembly and Congregation, such as might be able to teach*, hauing the ouersight of the people, and care of their soules, *Acts* 14. 23. *Tit.* 1. 5. *Acts* 20. 28. *Heb.* 13. 7, 17. 1. *Pet.* 5. 2, 3. So is it in this our Church a most excellent meanes to vphold our Religion.

VII. Then was *God only worshipped, and he only prayed vnto in these Assemblies*; not Saints, nor Angels, not the Virgin *Marie*. In them prayers were made with one accord, *Acts* 1. 14. & 2. 42. & 4. 24. the Word read, 2. *Thes.* 3. 27.

5.27. *Col.* 4.16. the Word preached, *Act.* 20.7. the Sacraments administred, *Act.* 2.42. 1. *Cor.* 11.18,20,23,26. and the Lords Supper in both kinds deliuered, 1. *Cor.* 10.16. Collections were also made for the poore, 1. *Cor.* 16.12. and al things were performed to edification, in a known tongue, 1. *Cor.* 14. In our Assemblies God is onely worshipped, to him onely we make our prayers, and neither to Saint nor Angell, nor to the Virgin *Mary*; though wee honour them duly as we ought. In our Assemblies, Prayer is made with one accord, the Word read and preached, the Sacraments administred, and the Lords Supper in both kinds deliuered, Almes, as need requires, giuen to the poore, and all done to edification, and in a knowne tongue, as in the Apostles dayes.

VIII. Then was *preached against, and forbidden all will-worship*, though neuer so faire in shew, *all seruice to God after the doctrine and cõmandements of men*, *Col.* 2.20,23. also, the *worship of Angels*, *Col.* 2.18. *the worship of Idols*, 1. *Ioh.* 5.21. *and fellowship with Idolaters*, 1. *Cor.* 8.10. *and* 5.11. 2. *Cor.* 6.14,18. So with vs are forbidden all these things, and condemned by our Religion, as is euident by our booke of Homilies, booke of Articles, the publike authorized larger Catechisme, and other publike Records: yea, the forbidding, abolishing, and preaching against these things, is an excellent meanes to vphold the purity of our Religion, which in it selfe is so contrary to all will-worship, humane inuentions, superstition and idolatry.

IX. Then was the exercise of *Ecclesiastical discipline* for the preseruation of order, for the punishing and casting out of obstinate Heretikes, 1. *Tim.* 1.20. & 6.3. *Tit.* 3.10. as also of notorious offenders, which would not otherwise bee reformed, 1. *Cor.* 5.7. 2. *Thes.* 3.14. and those the people were to auoyd, 1. *Cor.* 5.10. 2. *Thes.* 3.6. 2. *Tim.* 3.5. *Ephes.* 5.7. This godly discipline duly obserued, is of great force to preserue our Religion, and to keepe it in honour and estimation.

X. Then was there vrging and pressing to *a holy conuer-*

sation,

*ſation, both in Paſtors, Tit.*2.7,8. 1.*Tim.*4.12. *and in the people, Rom.*12.1,2. *Eph.*5.& 6. This Chriſtian-like conuerſation adorneth our Religion, which is onely powerfull in them which liue well; for it condemneth all Libertiniſme, and requireth very ſtrict obedience to God and his Word.

XI. Then was *ſuffering of perſecution for the truth*, and the ſame foretold to accompany the godly, *Acts* 14 22. 1.*Theſ.* 3.3. 2.*Tim.*3.12.& 1.8.*Phil.*1.19. which greatly furthered Religion, taught by the Apoſtles, *Phil.*1.12. And ſo hath it done ours in theſe parts of Chriſtendome, as the World knoweth.

XII. Then was taught *ſubiection both of Paſtors and people vnto Principallities and Powers, as to Kings, ſo to inferiour Magiſtrates ſent by them.* All ſorts without exception, were taught obedience to them, and for conſcience ſake, were they bound to render to them dues, tribute, cuſtome, honour. They were commanded to make prayers for them with thankſgiuing, which was a meanes to further Religion: for the Apoſtle telleth them, that thus to doe is well-doing, and a meanes to ſtop the mouthes of the Aduerſaries, that ſo they might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godlineſſe and honeſtie, *Rom.*13.1,7. *Tit.*3.1. 1.*Pet.*2.13,17 1.*Tim.*2.1,2. This is & hath bin an excellent meanes to aduance our Religion for Kings and Princes ſeeing, that our true and Apoſtolicall Religion did not derogate from their lawfull authoritie, did not draw ſubiects from their allegeance, nor exempt any from their true obedience, but rather maintained the right, which God by his holy Word in Scriptures had giuen them; they ſubmitted to the truth, and embraced our Religion, ſhaking off the yoake of Antichriſt, and ſo tooke vpon them the authoritie giuen them of God, to reforme Religion, according as they were taught, and had learned the doctrine of Chriſt in the Scriptures.

Thus wee ſee, firſt, the ordinay meanes which the holy Scriptures preſcribe, and euidently ſhew to haue been vſed in the Primitiue Church, for the planting and vpholding of Chriſtian Religion. And ſecondly, that the very ſelfe-ſame

haue

haue been, and yet are the meanes for planting and preſeruing of our Religion, in euery Countrey where it hath been receiued. Which meanes are ſo powerfull and effectuall for this purpoſe, that looke by how much theſe meanes are put in execution, by ſo much doth our Religion proſper, in ſpite of all worldly oppoſitions, and gaine-layings whatſoeuer: and on the contrarie, looke as theſe meanes, either wholly, or but in part, are neglected, or faile to bee performed, ſo doth our Religion loſe of its ſtrength, and decay amongſt the people, what policie ſoeuer men otherwiſe vſe to vphold the ſame. For our Religion ſtands by holy and heauenly meanes, and not by meere worldly policie, or humane deuices, faire ſhewes to the eyes, delights to the eare, pleaſurable obiects to delight the carnally-minded. Neither can it be held by any Satanicall deluſions, fabulous narrations, feigned miracles, deceitfull iugglings; nor by pretended apparitions of Angels, or of ſoules departed; nor by the bare authority of mens ſayings, Decrees of corrupt Councels, Popes ſentences, wrangling Canoniſts, Sophiſticall diſtinctions of Schoolemen, humane Traditions, Apocriphall writings, old and idle cuſtomes, examples of ignorant forefathers, eſtimation of mens perſons for learning, & ſhew of holineſſe; nor by any deceitfull, wicked, and corrupt dealing, as by counterfeite and baſtard writings, corrupting of Councels and Fathers, expunging words and ſentences out of learned mens workes, or altering them from the true meaning, to beguile the ſimple Reader. No, nor by furious and forcible meanes; as by fire and fagot, maſſacres, treaſons, poyſons, and ſtabbing of Kings, and Gun-powder-plots, nor by any ſuch helliſh practices, ſuch as the Apoſtles neuer ſpake of, the Primitiue Church neuer knew of, nor in holy Scripture were euer ſpoken of; for all theſe, our Religion doth vtterly condemne. It is vpheld only by thoſe holy and heauenly meanes, which the Apoſtles taught, and practiſed, and which they haue left written in the Scriptures for direction of Gods Church, that ſhe may know, which be the only effectuall meanes, that God hath appointed to vp-

hold his true Religion. By theſe meanes onely, ours is preſerued. And therefore it is that true Religion, which the holy Scripture teacheth. Which being ſo, I conclude this firſt argument, That this our preſent Religion, wherein we differ from our Aduerſaries, was before *Luthers* time.

II. *Argument.*

From the bleſſed Martyrs in all Ages.

THat Religion which was written by God in the hearts of his Martyrs, and which from the beginning to this day, they all ſuffered for, was before Luthers *time.* This cannot bee denied.

But our Religion now preſent, was written by God in the hearts of his Martyrs, and is that which from the beginning to this day, they all ſuffered for.

And therefore this our now preſent Religion was before Luthers *time.*

The Minor is thus confirmed, both for the writing of it in their hearts, and for ſuffering for it. The latter manifeſteth the former: for they that faithfully and conſtantly obey the truth, euen vnto ſuffering perſecution, and death for it, without doubt haue it written in their hearts. For if Religion be not imprinted in the hearts of the Martyrs, in whoſe hart is it written? For the Martyrs had the Spirit of the liuing God, ſauing-knowledge, and remiſſion of ſinnes: they walked in Gods Statutes, and kept his Iudgements ſincerely; all which are the euident ſignes, that Gods truth was written in their hearts, as theſe places of Scripture witneſſe, 2. *Cor.* 3. 3. *Ier.* 31. 33, 34. *Ezech.* 36. 27. This is not to bee doubted of. But the queſtion is, Whether all the Martyrs did ſuffer for this our Religion, or no? To anſwere to this, wee muſt conſider, that all the Martyrs of Chriſt may be ranked into foure ſorts, euery of which ſuffered for ſuch truths, as

are

are in our Religion, which we doe at this day profeſſe.

I. *Sort of Martyrs* were thoſe, who ſuffered by the Iwes, whereof the firſt was *Stephen*, then *Iames*, with many more, *Act.7.& 12.2.4.* All theſe did ſuffer for that Religion, which Chriſt and his Apoſtles taught: but they taught out of the Scriptures, and not out of Traditions, as the Euangeliſts and Acts ſhew. But to ſuffer for that Religion which is onely taught in the Scriptures, is to ſuffer for ours, as by the former argument is prooued. Therefore they ſuffered for our Religion.

II. *Sort of Martyrs* were ſuch, as ſuffred by and amongſt the Heathen, eſpecially vnder the Romane Tyrants, during the ten bloody perſecutions; among which Martyrs were moſt of the Apoſtles: for we reade not in Scripture, that any of the Apoſtles ſuffred martyrdome amongſt the Iewes, but onely *Iames, Iohns* brother, *Acts* 12. the reſt ſufferd among the Heathen. Now the Apoſtles being the planters of our Religion (as by their writings doth appeare) and alſo Martyrs for the ſame among this ſecond ſort, they muſt needs be our Martyrs, ſuffering for our Religion, and ſo all the reſt which followed the Apoſtles in the ſame faith.

III. *Sort of Martyrs* were ſuch, as ſuffered by the furie and rage of Heretikes, when the Arians had got an ouerſwaying power through Arian Emperours and Kings. But thoſe Orthodox all Martyres and Confeſſors ſuffered for no other doctrine, then our Religion teacheth. For wee hold and profeſſe the faith of the Councell of Nice, and *Athanaſius* Creed; for in our common Prayer-booke they are appoynted publikely to be read in our Aſſemblies. And therfore theſe alſo ſuffered for our Religion, and were our Martyrs.

But heere our Aduerſaries will ſay, that all theſe three ſorts were their Martyrs; for they brag and boaſt of theſe to ſilly people, as if they had ſuffered for their religion, now profeſſed and practiſed among them. But that the truth may appeare, whether theſe Martyrs be theirs, or ours, wee muſt conſider them both as Martyrs, and alſo as beleeuers:

properly they were Martyrs in thoſe things, for which they did ſuffer. Now their ſuffering was for the common truths, receiued both by our Aduerſaries and vs. So the cauſe making the Martyrs, and it equally held of both, they are our Martyrs, aſwell as theirs. Yea, if we conſider them alſo as Beleeuers, holding other points of faith, for which they were not queſtioned, neither ſuffered for, we may more rightly claime them, then our aduerſaries. For of which Religion they held, and moſt agreed vnto, of that Religion muſt they be iudged to be. That this may bee knowne, it muſt be wel conceiued, what they and we meane by ſaying, *Our Religion*. We either ſide ſtand vpon our Religion, not as we agree in points of Chriſtianitie one with the other; but as we haue our differences alſo to our ſelues one from the other. So vpon this reſteth the point, to try the Martyres whoſe they bee, theirs or ours, by their more or leſſe agreeing, or diſagreeing with either ſide in our ſaid differences. But in reſpect of the maine differences of their Religion from ours, that they cannot claime the Martyrs, I thus proue by theſe enſuing reaſons.

I. If the maine differences in their Religion be ſuch, as none of theſe Martyrs (which ſuffered by, and amongſt the Iewes, or by, and amongſt the Heathen, or by, and amongſt the wicked Heretikes) euer made profeſſion of, much leſſe ſuffered for, then in reſpect of theſe differences, are they not their Martyrs; they cannot appropriate them to themſelues, as they vſe to doe, but are ſtill Martyrs in common.

But the antecedent is true, as ſhall be prooued by my third reaſon next following, for ſixe hundred yeeres ſpace after Chriſt, in which ſpace were all three ſorts of Martyrs. And therefore the conſequence cannot be denied.

II. If theſe differences in their Religion bee nothing elſe but humane inuentions, without ſound authoritie from holy Scriptures, and that the Martyrs profeſſed and beleeued thoſe things onely, which expreſſely, or by neceſſarie concluſions, are contained in the Scriptures, then in reſpect of theſe differences, they are not their Martyrs.

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But the former part is true. *Ergo*, the latter muſt needes bee granted.

For the truth of the antecedent, touching the vnwarrantableneſſe of theſe their differences, and without all ground of Scripture: I demand of Papiſts, what Scripture haue they for theſe things, wherein we and they doe differ?

I. *Of God.* What Scripture for the picturing of the holy Trinitie; forbidden by *Moſes* to be any way repreſented? *Deut.*4.15,16.

II. *Of the Scriptures.* Where is it written, that the Scriptures receiue authoritie from the Church, and the ſenſe thereof onely ſubiect vnto her? That the Vulgar Latin tranſlation is onely to be admitted as authenticall? That the Scriptures be imperfect, and are not the certaine rule of faith? That there are traditions beſides for perfecting the Scriptures, and to be receiued with equall authoritie with Scriptures?

III. *Of the Church.* That the Catholike Church is not the company onely of Gods elect people? That the Church of Rome cannot erre?

IV. *Of the Pope.* Where is Scripture to prooue, that *Peter* was at Rome, and Biſhop there twenty fiue yeeres? That he was to be appointed Vicar of Chriſt? That the Pope is the vniuerſall Biſhop? that he onely is *Peters* ſucceſſour, and Chriſts Vicar? That he cannot erre *è Cathedra*? That he is aboue Councels? That he may depoſe Kings from their temporall eſtates, and diſpoſe of their Kingdomes? That he can diſpenſe with ſinnes againſt the plaine Law of God? That he can ſet ſoules free out of tormentes after this life?

V. *Of the Clergie and Eccleſiaſticall perſons.* In what place of Scripture is it taught, that there be Popes, Cardinals, and Popiſh Prelates like Princes? That there are now Prieſts, to whom a ſpeciall Office of Prieſthood is aſſigned? That there bee ſeuen degrees thereof? That a man is now appointed in the time of the Goſpell, to offer ſacrifices daily for the quicke and the dead? That all Churchmen (ſo called)

led) are to liue vnmarried? That a Monasticall life is the best estate? That Ecclesiasticall persons are exempt from secular authority?

VI. *Of the Sacraments.* Where doth the Scripture teach, that Baptisme is to bee administred with Chrisme, Oyle, Coniuring, Salt, Spittle? That there is such a spirituall kindred betweene the Witnesses, and the party baptized, as also betwixt the Parents and Children of those Witnesses, as it hindreth marriage (without a dispensation) betwixt one another, though there be otherwise no kindred either of affinity or consanguinity? That Iesus Christ is bodily and wholly, as he is Man, borne of the Virgin *Mary*, in the Sacrament, the Bread being turned into his Flesh? That it is a sacrifice for the quick and the dead? That the Cake is to bee reserued, and carryed about in pompe, and that all are to fall downe to it, and worship it? That it is to bee administred but in one kind? That the Lay people must not take it, but gape and eate it? That the Priest that saith Masse, must haue a shauen Crowne; haue his Amice, Girdle, Aube, Manuple, Stole, Chesible, and other pretended holy vestments? That he must vse such crossings, turnings, duckings, liftings, whisperings, gapings, minglings of wine and water, such lickings, and other variety of stagelike gestures?

VII. *Of Prayer.* That it must be in Latine? That not God onely, but Saints may be prayed vnto? That the dead are to be prayed for? That it is lawfull to pray by number, to say the same 150. times, and to pray vpon Beades?

VIII. *Of Worship.* What written Word teacheth, that Diuine Seruice is to bee said onely in the Latine Tongue? That Saints, and their Reliques are to be adored? That Images and Pictures are to be in Churches, for adoration sake, and to be Lay-mens bookes?

IX. *Of the Virgin Mary.* That she was borne without sinne? That she is the Queene of Heauen, the Lady of the World? That she is diuinely to be worshipped? That shee is to haue her proper seruice, and her *Aue Maries?*

X. *Of the Church or Temple,* the place of publike worship.

ſhip. What Scripture, that bells are to bee baptized? That there muſt bee Altars, Veiles, Holy-water, Holy-aſhes, Palmes, and many ſuch trumperies? That children dying without Baptiſme, are not to be buried in the Church-yard; and that there is for their ſoules a *Limbus Infantium?*

XI. *Of dayes.* Where doe the Apoſtles teach, that there are ſuch a number of Holy-dayes, as be in that Religion? That a ſpeciall Holineſſe is to be put in the obſeruation of dayes? That dayes and times are to bee ſet apart to the worſhip of Saints?

XII. *Of meates.* Where ... Scripture reade they, that there is ſuch a difference of meates, as the obſeruation of ſuch a difference at ſome times, is more holy, then at other ſome times.

All theſe differences are humane inuentions, without warrant of Scriptures. Now let them ſhew, that any of theſe ſorts of Martyrs beleeued and profeſſed theſe differences: if they cannot, then the concluſion is good, that they were not their Martyrs by theſe differences, but in common ſtill ours as well as theirs.

III. If theſe differences be but a very patchery of Hereſies, Iudaiſme, and Paganiſme, then in reſpect thereof, they cannot be their Martyrs: for Martyrs ſuffered for none of theſe three, but, in deteſtation thereof, were grieuouſly perſecuted by Iewes, Pagans, and Heretikes.

But the antecedent is moſt true, as our learned men haue made it manifeſt. For Hereſies; [a] Biſh. *Morton*, [b] Doct. *Whitacres*, [c] *Gab. Powel*, and [d] Doctor *Willet*. For Iudaiſme, [e] Doctor *Raynolds* hath ſufficiently manifeſted it, and ſomewhat of Paganiſme. But for this reade *Thom. Moreſin*, Doctor of Phyſicke, his whole book, called *Papatus*, printed at Edenburgh, and [f] *Gab. Powel* on the firſt Chapter to the Romanes. For all three, ſee a late publiſhed booke, called, *The three Conformities*. And therefore in reſpect of theſe differences, being hereticall, Iewiſh, & Paganiſh, theſe Martyrs are none of their Martyrs, neither did their ſufferings make good any whit this their now preſent Religion.

[a] *De Eccleſ.* pag. 308.
[b] *Apol. Catho.* cap. 66.
[c] *Lib. de Anti-chriſt. c.* 24.
[d] In his ſecond pillar of Pop.
[e] Againſt *Hart. cap.* 8. *diuiſ.* 4. *pa.* 567, 568, 569. & 572.
[f] *Ca.* 1. *verſ.* 25. *pa.* 200.

IV. If these differences from our Religion doe offer violence to the three Offices of Christ, and make their publike worship in many things blasphemous, and idolatrous; then in respect of such differences, they are not their Martyrs.

But the antecedent is true. *Ergo*, the consequent. To proue the antecedent, Doctor *Fownes* hath lately of purpose set forth his *Trisagion*, wherin he hath sufficiently confirmed it, out of their publike *Missaes*, *Breuiaries*, *Portuses*, *Rosaries*, *Liturgies*, *Psalters*, *Primers*, and *Manuals of prayers*, to which I referre the Reader for full satisfaction: And doe conclude therefore, that these blessed Martyrs were none of theirs, by vertue of these differences.

V. If many of these differences of theirs be not only besides Scriptures, without warrant from thence, as before is shewed, but also flat against Scripture, and against our common tenents, agreed vpon between vs and them: then in respect of these differences, they are not their Martyrs. For they did not suffer for those things which were against Scripture, and the common tenents of Christianity, wherin we and our Aduersaries doe agree. If they dare affirme this, let thm giue instance thereof.

But many of these their differences are against Scripture, and against the common tenents of Christianity, in which we both agree. Which being so, these their differences can be no part of Christianity, because they be against both the rule, and also against the grounds of Christianity. Therefore the consequence is true. That there are such differences betweene vs, I instance for proofe in these ensuing.

That the Scriptures are imperfect, contrary to *Psal.* 19.7. 1. *Tim.* 3.16,17. That there is an vnwritten word, called, Traditions, to bee added therunto; contrary to *Deut.* 4.2 *Reuel.* 21.8. *Prou.* 30.6. That the witnesse of the Church is greater then the witnesse of the Scriptures, and to be beleeued before them: contrary to 1. *Ioh.* 5.9. *Iohn.* 5.17.

That the inuisible God may bee pictured: contrary to *Deut.* 4.15. *Acts* 17.29. *Esa.* 40.18. *Rom.* 1.13. That Images

ges may be made to be worſhipped: contrary to *Deut.* 27. 15. *Exod.* 20. and that they are for inſtruction: contrary to *Hab.* 2. 18.

That prayers may be made to the Virgin *Mary*, and to Saints departed: contrary to *Matth.* 6. 19. and contrary to the practice of the Patriarchs, Prophets and Apoſtles, and holy men in Scripture. That prayers made by number, and often repetitions, are pleaſing vnto God, as when people are taught to pray by number on Beades: contrary to *Matth.* 6. 7. That they may be vttered in an vnknowne tongue, and alſo Gods publike ſeruice ſo ſaid: contrary to 1. *Cor.* 14. 15, 19. That therein a generall good intent is acceptable to God, though the mind bee not endued with ſound knowledge: contrary to *Prou.* 19. 2. 1. *Cor.* 14. 20.

That the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, is to be adminiſtred and receiued in one kind: contrary to *Matth.* 26. 27. 1. *Cor.* 10. 16. & 11. 23, 24, 25. That Ieſus Chriſt is corporally in the Bread tranſubſtantiated: contrary to *Act.* 3. 21. And that it is very God: contrary to *Hoſ.* 8. 6. That it is offered for a ſacrifice propitiatory, as if Chriſt once offering himſelfe, were not ſufficient: contrary to *Heb.* 10. 10, 14.

That the Law may be fulfilled, and a man iuſtified thereby before God: contrary to *Rom.* 7. 19. & 3. 20. & 4. 2. 1. *Cor.* 4. 4. *Eſa.* 46. 6.

That a man may merit by his works: contrary to *Tit.* 3. 5. *Epheſ.* 2. 8, 10. *Rom.* 6. 23. *Luk.* 7. 10. That a man may bee able to doe more, then God requireth of him, or that hee is tyed by dutie to doe: contrary to *Rom.* 7. 19. *Luk.* 17. 10. *Prou.* 20. 9. *Eccleſ.* 7. 20. *Pſal.* 130. 3. That the Pope may diſpenſe with Gods Law: contrary to 1. *Sam.* 2. 25. *Rom.* 8. 33, 34. *Iob* 9. 33. & 34. 29.

That there are ſinnes which yet are not prohibited by Gods Law: contrary to 1. *Ioh.* 3. 4. *Ro.* 4. 15. & 7. 8. & 3. 20. That ſome ſinnes are in themſelues veniall, which deſerue not death: contrary to *Rom.* 6. 23. *Iames.* 1. 15. *Geneſ.* 2. 17. That originall concupiſcence is no ſinne in the regenerate: contrary to *Rom.* 7. 19. *Pſalm.* 51. That the Virgin *Mary*

was without ſinne: contrary to *Iob* 14.4. *Eccleſ.*7.2, 20. *Pſal.*130.3. *Rom.*3.9,23. 1.*Ioh.*1.7,8. *Luke* 1.46.

That Marriage is not honorable in all ſorts of men; as for inſtance, not in the Clergie: contrary to *Heb.*13.4. 1 *Cor.*7.9. 1.*Tim.*5.14. and contrary to the practice of the married Prieſts vnder the Law. That married perſons with conſent, may euer liue aſunder, to lead a Monaſticall life: contrary to 1.*Cor.*7.2.

That holineſſe is to be put in the obſeruation of daies: contrary to *Col.*2.16. Of meates: contrary to *Rom.*14.14. 1.*Cor.*8.8. *Matth.*15.20. 1.*Tim.*4.3,4. and ſo men loſe thereby Chriſtian liberty: contrary to *Gal.*5.1.

That many who dye in the Lord, not abiects from God, yet reſt not after death for a time: contrary to *Reuel.*14.13. but make a temporall ſatisfaction, in a place they call Purgatory, whoſe ſinnes although heere pardoned, yet go not theſe ſoules immediately to heauen: contrary to *Luk.*23. 43. where the good Thiefe is promiſed Paradiſe, which is Heauen, 2.*Cor.*12.3,4.

That the Popes power is kingly, yea, that he may vſe the temporall Sword, and depoſe Kings, and diſpoſe of their Kingdomes, and be ſubiect to none: contrary to *Luke* 22. 25,26. *Matth.*20.25,26. *Rom.*13,1. *Tit.*3.1. 1.*Pet.*2.13. That he which gets the Popes diſpenſation, ſinneth not in that he doth, though the ſame be againſt Gods Law: contrary to *Matth.*5.19 *Deut.*27.26. *Ier.*11.3. *Ioh.*3.4. That the Pope is Chriſts Vicar, and yet may intermeddle with the earthly and temporall Kingdomes of this World: contrary to Chriſts owne practice, *Luk.*12.14. the nature of his Kingdome, *Iohn* 18.36. againſt the nature of ſuch ſpirituall weapons & power which God gaue to his Apoſtles, 2. *Corint.*10.4,5,6. Yea, that the Pope may take vpon him (as he doth) to haue to doe with thoſe which are without, to wit, the Heathen, to giue away their Kingdoms, (as he preſumeth to doe with ſuch as forſake him, whom he iudgeth to bee Heretikes) contrary to 1.*Cor.*5.12,13. That his Clergie are exempted from ciuill Iuriſdiction: contrary to

Chriſts

Christs commandement, *Matth.* 22. 21. to his practice, *Matth.* 17. 27. to Saint *Peters* teaching, 1. *Pet.* 2. 13, 14. and to Saint *Pauls*, *Rom.* 13. 1. 7. *Tit.* 3. 1. It were infinite to particularize all the differences betweene our Religion and theirs, wherin they are contrary to holy Scripture, and contrary to the tenne Commandements, the Creed, the Lords Prayer, and the two Sacraments. Of which if any desire herein instances to be better satisfied, let him reade *Gabriel Powel*, who hath purposely set downe a multitude of particulars. *Lib. de Antichr. cap. 6. 10. cap. 33.*

VI. And lastly, if none of the Martyrs were Papists, or (as they please to call themselues) Romane Catholiks, then could they not be their Martyrs: for they which bee not such, are not held to bee of their Romane Religion, nor Church.

But none of these Martyrs were Papists, or Romane Catholikes; for they held not these many differences of theirs from vs, by which a Papist becommeth a Papist or Romane Catholike, and without which hee is not by them approoued to be such a one. For let a man hold all other poynts of Christianity wholly and fully; yet if he hold not, that the Pope hath authority, as Christs Vicar vpon earth; that the Church of Rome is the Mother and Mistresse of all Churches; that there are seuen Sacraments: that the Sacrament may be receiued in one kind: that the bread after consecration is transubstantiated, and Christ there corporally vnder the formes of Bread and Wine, and so to be diuinely adored: that seruice is to be said euery where in Latine: that Images are to bee set in Churches, and to be worshipped: that Saints departed, are to be prayed vnto, and their Reliques worshipped: that there is a Purgatory for penall satisfaction after this life: that our workes doe merit, and that we are iustified by them before God: that Ecclesiasticall persons may not marry: that confession of sinnes is to be made secretly to a Priest in his eare, and that hee hath power iudicially to absolue the confitents, and impose penance vpon them for satisfaction for sinne vnto God.

Theſe, and ſuch like articles newly coyned, whoſoeuer doth not hold, is not iudged to be a Romane Catholike But none of theſe differences did theſe Martyrs hold, much leſſe euer ſuffered perſecution for. For not one of theſe articles of the Trent Conuenticle was held in the time of theſe ſorts of Martyrs, all of them ſuffering within the 600. yeeres after Chriſt, in which ſpace was there none that might be called a Papiſt, or Roman Catholike after the definition of the Trentiſts. And therefore were they not their Martyrs, neither did any of them profeſſe the now new Romane Trentiſme.

And thus wee ſee, how by theſe differences they cannot claime the Martyrs. Now our differences from them, are all grounded vpon Scriptures, and principles of Chriſtianity, and warranted by ſuch common truth of Chriſtian Religion, as they and we doe fully accord in; not one of our differences being either hereſie, or any part of Iudaiſme, or Paganiſme, nor euer condemned by any generall Councell in the ſpace of theſe firſt ſixe hundreds of yeeres, in which theſe three ſorts of Martyrs did liue. True it is, that our aduerſaries call vs Heretikes, and lay hereſies to our charge, but falſely, without iuſt proofe, as our learned *Whitacres*, Biſhop *Morton*, and others, ſhew in anſwering *Bellarmine* his calumnies herein to the full. Seeing then our differences and truths of Chriſtian Religion, taught by the Apoſtles, and by the ſucceeding Paſtors, and believed by the Church, are the parts of that Faith and Religion, which theſe Martyrs ſuffered for; I conclude, that in regard both of the truthes, wherein wee and our Aduerſaries agree, and alſo of our differences, wherein we diſagree from the now preſent Church of Rome, they were our Martyrs, and none of theirs.

Lib. de eccleſ. cont. 2. queſt. 5. pa. 300. & 308.

IV. *Sort of Martyrs* are thoſe, who ſuffered by, and amongſt theſe our aduerſaries, as the Berengarians, Waldenſes, Albigenſes, *Wickliſe* and his followers in England, *Iohn Hus*, and *Ierome* of Prague, at Conſtance, and many moe in Bohemia, and in other places, euen to *Luthers* time, and after,

ter, an innumerable multitude slaine and massacred, burnt, and put to sundry deathes for our Religion, and for gainesaying our aduersaries in those differences, which we now stand out in, against the Church of Rome at this present. These were therefore our Martyrs.

But our aduersaries will say, that these were no Martyrs, but condemned Heretikes. *Obiect.*

That they were Martyrs, & no Heretikes, its cleare. S. *Iohn* in the *Reuelation*, calleth those Saints and Martyrs of Iesus, *Reuel.* 17.6. which should suffer for the Word of God, for refusing to worship the Beast and his Image, and for not receiuing his marke in their fore-heads, or in their hands, *Reuel.* 20.4. and for keeping the Commandements of God, and the faith of Iesus, and so dying in the Lord, should rest from their labours, and be accounted blessed, *Reuel.* 14.12, 13. But such were these our Martyrs, for they suffered for Gods Word, for keeping the Commandements and Faith of Iesus, and for refusing to worship the Beast and Whore of Rome; drunke with the blood of the Saints. And therefore were blessed Martyrs, and no Heretikes. *Answ.*

But they will say, These held diuers errours, and were not in all things wholly with vs? *Obiect.*

They suffered, and were Martyrs for those selfe-same things, which with vs they witnessed against the Church of Rome. *Answ.*

II. Many errours are ascribed vnto them, which they neuer held, as Doctor *Vsher* Bishop of *Meeth* learnedly shewes. *De continu. & statu Eccleſiæ.*

III. Though in some things they should haue differed from vs, yet doth not that make them not to be of our Religion. For if for lighter differences in opinions, men should be held not to be of the same Religion (if so our aduersaries will conclude) then are the now Romanists not of one and the same Religion, which is now professed at Rome: for one of them differs much from another in many things. Neither haue they any right to the ancient Fathers, betweene whom and these our aduersaries, is also great difference, See Doct. *Hall* his peace of Rome.

rence, and that in many things. Theſe Martyrs therefore, though they might differ from vs in ſome things (the Light then not ſhining ſo clearely, as now it doth) were our Martyrs. Thus wee ſee all the Martyrs from the beginning, to be ours, and ſo haue our Aduerſaries none at all, which may be properly called theirs, for the firſt 600. yeeres: For if they claime the firſt three ſorts, its but as they do agree with vs; for in their differences from vs, the Martyrs are none of theirs. The fourth ſort are clearely our owne, and are Martyrs in defence of our differences from them. But for their differences, they haue no Martyrs of Ieſus: for ſuch Martyrs as be his Martyrs, ſuffer for his ſake, for Gods Word, for his Faith and Commandements: but their differences are not Gods Word, nor the Faith, nor Commandements of Ieſus, neither ſuffered Papiſts here for Religion; but for treaſon, rebellion, diſloyall acts, for denying due obedience to lawfull authority, and for ſtanding in defence of forraine power, and the authority of the Whore of Babylon, the murtherer of Saints, and of that Antichriſt the Pope, as he is prooued ſufficiently ſo to be. And therefore I conclude, our Religion to be before *Luthers* time.

III. *Argument.*

From the Writing of the ancient Fathers.

THat Religion which is to be found in the writings of the ancient Fathers, as profeſſed and taught by them, in the firſt 600. yeeres after Chriſt, that was before Luthers *time.*

But this our preſent Religion (in the points of doctrine wherin we differ from our Aduerſaries) is to be found in the writings of the ancient Fathers, as profeſſed and taught by them in the firſt 600. yeeres after Chriſt.

Therefore was this our preſent Religion (in the points of doctrine, wherein wee differ from our Aduerſaries) before Luthers *time.*

The

The Minor I thus proouе: All the differing Religions of greateſt note, which were euer ſince Chriſts aſcenſion, are one of theſe; Iudaiſme, Gentiliſme, or Paganiſme, Arianiſme (vnder which I comprehend all hereſies) Mahometiſme, or Turciſme, *the preſent Religion of the Church of Rome*, which may be called *Trentiſme*, or *Ieſuitiſme*, commonly called, *Papiſtrie*; and this our Religion termed, *The reformed Religion*, or *Proteſtancy*; whileh wee profeſſe and teach with an vnanime conſent in the Harmonie of Confeſſions, otherwiſe then the Church of Rome now doth. But thoſe ancient Fathers taught not Iudaiſme, nor Paganiſme, nor Arianiſme, or other hereſies, which in thoſe dayes roſe vp, nor Mahometiſme. *Ergo*, either the Religion of the now Church of Rome, or ours, with either of our differences one from another. But not ſo this of theirs. For thoſe differences on their part, whereby a man becommeth a Romane Catholike, or Papiſt, the ancient Fathers, *with one conſent*, neuer taught. The differences are mentioned before: for all which if they can produce the *vnanime Conſent* of thoſe Fathers in 600. yeeres ſpace, we yeeld them the Fathers: but if not, then are they ours, as they that taught and profeſſed our Religion. For they not onely taught all the maine poynts of faith, which we and our aduerſaries doe agree in; but alſo all the principall differences with vs, wherein we and our aduerſaries doe differ, as *Polanus* hath largely prooued, to whoſe learned paines I referre the Reader. Therefore this our preſent Religion was before *Luthers* time. In his *Symbolia Catbol.*

IV. *Argument.*

From the witneſſe of our very Aduerſaries.

THat Religion which is to be found in the publike Records of the Church of Rome, and in the writings of learned men therein, from the very firſt foundation of it vnto this day; that was before Luthers *time.* This (I hope) may paſſe for current.

But this our present Religion is such a Religion, and therfore before Luthers *time.*

The Minor, if they deny, is thus confirmed. I. There are amongst them *the holy Scriptures*, which they acknowledge to be the Word of God: but by those Scriptures may all our Religion be proued, and fully confirmed, in any thing wherein we differ from our aduersaries. And therefore this our Religion is to be found among them.

II. There is that which is called, *The Apostles Creed*, and the *Nicene Creed*, which they professe, the Articles wherof we hold, and therein is contained the summe of our Faith.

III. There is *the Lords Prayer*, the patterne of all true Prayers, according to which onely wee teach how to pray aright, and thereafter doe frame our prayers.

IV. There is the *Decalogue and ten Commandements*, which though defectiuely set downe in their Catechismes (the second being left out) yet are they wholly set downe in their Bibles, which ten Commandements are the summe of our morall obedience, and of our duties towards God, and our neighbours.

V. They acknowledge *the two Sacraments, Baptisme and the Lords Supper*, both which we doe administer.

VI. There are *common tenents of Christianity*, which all Christian Churches haue euer held, wherin we and they doe fully agree.

VII. There is *their Seruice Booke*, wherein though many abominations are to be found, yet in other things it iustifieth our Religion and Seruice: As may appeare by comparing our Seruice Booke with it; out of which, ours was, for the substance thereof, taken. Against which they cannot iustly take exception; neither are they able to prooue, by Gods Word, by the ancient Councels, and consent of the ancient Fathers, any thing Idolatrous, Heretical, or any way vnlawfull, wherein soeuer it differeth from theirs.

VIII. There may also be found *their accord in generall termes* with vs, in those things, wherein for the particulars

we

wee and they be at oddes, and doe disagree; as Master *Perkins* giueth instance in one and twenty particulars: and the like may be done in many other poynts. In his reformed Catholike.

IX. And lastly, there is to be found *all and euery poynt of our Religion particularly*, wherein wee differ from them, which either wee affirme, or they deny; or wee denie, and they affirme; and the same iustified by the writings of the learned amongst them. For proofe hereof, I referre the Reader to my *Lord of Conentry and Lichfield*, his *Catholike appeale*, and *Catholike Apologie, first and second parts*; to my *Lord of Meeth*, his booke *de Chri. Eccles. succes. & statu*; to *Illyricus*, his *Catalog. Test. Veritatis*; to *Ioh. à Munster*, his *Nobilis Discursus*; to *Doct. Feild*, his fourth booke of the Church, who proueth seuen and twenty particulars of our maine differences out of their owne Writers. And if the writings of their learned men doe not iustifie our Religion, I would know, why they doe not suffer such writings to passe without purging? For if such things were not for vs, and against them, they would not put out, nor alter, nor so indeed corrupt Authors, or inhibite them to passe abroad, as they doe: which one act of theirs sheweth, that our differences might be prooued, euen by their owne Writers, if they might decide the controuersies betwixt vs and them.

Thus we see, how our Religion is to bee found amongst them, not onely in the poynts wherein wee doe agree, but euen in all our particular differences, in which wee stand out against the preualent faction of that Church, which alwayes hath ouer-borne the truth, which by others of more sound iudgement in that Church, hath been from time to time published and maintained. And therefore this our now present Religion was before *Luthers* time.

V. *Argument.*

From the beginning of our Religion here, before *Austin* the Monke came to this Iland.

THat Religion which was here in this Iland of Great Britaine, before Austin *the Monke came into it, that was be-*

fore Luthers *time*: for this Monke came in many hundred of yeeres before *Luther* was borne.

But this our present Religion was here in this Iland of Great Britaine, before Austin *the Monke came into it.*

Therefore was it before Luthers *dayes.*

The Minor I thus proove:

I. The Christian Religion taught at Ierusalem by the Apostles, and other Disciples of Christ, was our Religion, as by the first Argument is prooued from the Apostles writings.

Cambden in Brit. p 40. 157 * *Harison before, Hollinſ. Chron.* *Middleton in his Papiſtomaſtix. pag. 202.* See the Protestants Apol. vnder *Brerely's* name.

But that same Christian Religion was here taught, and that either by some Apostle, as *Simon Zelotes*; or some Disciple of Christ, as *Ioseph* of Arimathea, * as some of our side haue prooued fully, and our Aduersaries yeeld vs. Now if that which was taught at Ierusalem was ours, then must it needs be ours, which *Simon Zelotes*, or *Ioseph* of Arimathea did here teach, at the first planting of it, being before *Austins* time: for can any say, that these brought from Ierusalem hither, any other Religion, then the Apostles deliuered there?

Brerely his Appeale, Trac. 1. Sect. 2. pag. 69.

II. That same Religion first taught, did continue here in succession from the Apostles dayes, and was held at *Austins* comming, as our aduersaries, the Apologists do proue, and doe take this also for an vndoubted truth, that *the Britaines of Wales receiued the faith of Christ, by preaching of the Apostles, and held that Faith at Austins comming.* Now the Faith taught by the Apostles, being the same with ours, as the holy Scriptures beare witnesse against all gaine-sayers; it is cleare by the Apologists proofes, and their owne acknowledgement of the continuance thereof, from the very beginning, that this our present Religion was here in this Iland of Great Britaine, before *Austins* comming.

III. Here were many which suffered Martyrdome in *Diocleſians* reigne, before *Austines* dayes, but it is prooued before in the second Argument, that all the Martyrs of Christ were of our Religion. And therefore was that our

Religion,

Religion, which was here before *Austines* time.

IV. Before *Austines* comming, the Church of Christ here, was not subiect to the Romish Church: for first, they kept not their Easter after the Romish fashion, but as the Easterne Churches kept it, whence our Religion came. Now if they had bin of the Romanists tutoring, the fiery spirit of *Victor*, who attempted to excommunicate the Easterne Churches, would haue compelled the Britains to haue kept their Easter, as hee did. Secondly, they administred Baptisme not after the ceremonious fashion of the Romanists. Thirdly, they refused to doe, what *Austin* required, neither would they acknowledge him their Archbishop, though sent from Rome by the Bish. there. Fourthly, both the Britains, Scots, and Irish Bishops so vtterly reiected the Romish Bishops, as Bishop *Daganus* denied all communiō with them, yea, and refused to eate bread with them in the same Inne; so little regard had they then to the authority either of the Romish Church, or Romish Bishops. Yea, the Centuriists, & other Protestants haue obserued out of *Galfridus*, that before *Austins* comming, *there was here among the Britaines, the profession of more pure Christianity, then that which Austine brought from Rome.* Its babbled out by our aduersaries, that this *Austin* conuerted this Iland: but this is most vntrue; for Saint *Aidan*, and Saint *Finan*, were the Lords instruments to gaine many here to Christ.

Beda historiæ lib. 2. cap. 2.

Beda lib. 2. ca. 4. Bish. *Vshers* letter, pag. 80. 81. 82. 83.

Galfridus Monumentis Cen-turiat. 6. pag.

Saint *Aidan* recouered from Paganisme, the Kingdome of Northumberland, whereunto belonged (besides Northumberland it selfe, the Lands beyond it, vnto Edenborow Frith) these Countries, Cumberland, Westmerland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the Bishopricke of Durham.

Beda lib. 3. Hist. cap. 3. 6.

Saint *Finan* regained not onely Essex and Middlesex, but also the large Kingdome of Mercia, conuerted first vnto Christianity; which Kingdome did comprehend vnder it these Countries; Glostershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, Huntingtonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire,

Ibi. c. 21. 22. 24. Bish. *Vsher* in his late Epistle added to Sir *Chr. Sybthorps booke.*

ſhire, Darbyſhire, Shropſhire, Nottingamſhire, Cheſhire, and halfe Hertfordſhire.

Theſe holy men are they, which, vnder God, are to haue the prayſe, and not *Auſtin*, who brought ſome, but few in compariſon of theſe, to the profeſſion of Chriſt: but withall, beſmeared them with Romiſh ſuperſtitions. And ſuch others as were already Chriſtians, hee endeuoured to loade with humane inuentions, and vnneceſſary ceremonies, and was (if not the cauſe) yet the occaſion of the deſtruction of many, and of the miſerable and mercileſſe ſlaughter of the godly Monkes at Bangor, to the number of 1200. for that theſe poore Monkes would not ſubmit to him, whom they ſaw to be too proud, and not ſo humble a man, as a man of God ought to haue been.

See Archb. *Parker* his booke *de anti. Brit. cap.* 18.

V. That this our Religion was here before *Auſtin*, it may appeare by that publike doctrine of the Church, which was taught about the time of *Gregorie*, (who ſent in hither this *Auſtin*) concerning the bleſſed Sacrament, altogether agreeing with our preſent doctrine, and plainely oppoſite to the doctrine of the now Church of Rome. For in an *Homily of the Saxon Tongue*, appointed to be preached on *Eaſter day*, throughout euery Church, the bread is acknowledged to be *naturally corruptible bread, and corruptible wine; truly Chriſts body and blood, yet not ſo bodily, but ſpiritually; and nothing therein to be vnderſtood bodily, but all ſpiritually.* If this was the publike doctrine, ſo fully herein agreeing with vs, ſo contrary now to the Romiſh beliefe, in their tranſubſtantiated bread (for deniall whereof they haue murthered ſo many, and now hold it ſtill ſo maine an article of their Romane beliefe,) how can it be otherwiſe imagined, all things alſo before conſidered withall, but that the Religion then, was our religion now, and not this of the Church of Rome?

See Bilhop *Morton* his Catholike Appeale, *lib.* 1. *cap.* 2. *ſect.* 8. *pag.* 11.

VI. It cannot be denied, if our Religion bee the ſame, which was planted by the Apoſtles in the Eaſterne Churches, from which our Religion was brought hither as is afore deliuered, but that then this our Religion was before *Auſtines* time. But that ours is the ſame, the Apoſtles writ-

tings

tings written to the Churches ſhew. Secondly, an Apoſtle, or ſome Apoſtolicall men here taught it. Thirdly, the writings of the Greek Fathers for 600. yeres ſpace after Chriſt (which is all the ſpace from Chriſt to this *Auſtin*) giue teſtimony to our Religion in the maine poynts thereof, as is prooued before in the third argument. Fourthly, it is euident euen by thoſe things, which yet the Churches at this day in thoſe parts doe hold with vs, and wherein wee and they agree againſt the now Romiſh Religion. For the Greekes deny *the Popes Supremacy, Purgatory, and Prayer for the deliuerance of ſoules out of it, the neceſſity of Auricular Confeſſion, Meritorious ſatisfaction of the iuſtice of God, Tranſubſtantiation, carued Images and Statues.* They deny, *that Saints departed, heare our Prayers.* They *adminiſter the Sacraments in both kinds, and allow Miniſters marriage. They mixe not water with wine, they vſe not vnleauened bread. They admit not priuate Maſſes*, nor the *Circumgeſtation*, or *Adoration of the Sacrament*, nor the *publike ſeruice in an vnknowne tongue.* They *teach the aſſurance of ſalnation in Chriſt, and renounce the merit of workes.* All which are oppoſite to the now Romiſh Religion, and are the truthes of our Religion, taught by the Apoſtles, and holy ancient Fathers, from the beginning, in the Eaſterne Churches, wherein they are not falne from that which at firſt they receiued, as they be in ſome other things, which they teach and practiſe. *Ibidem lib. 1. ca. 11. ſec. 1, 2.*

VII. The Religion which we profeſſe, is the ſame which was at Rome, at the time of the three conuerſions of England, as they call them; and therefore was this our Religion before *Auſtines* comming, and heere profeſſed when hee came in.

The *firſt conuerſion* was in the Apoſtles dayes; but in their dayes, was our Religion at Rome, as Saint *Pauls* Epiſtle written to the Saints there, and other of his Epiſtles declare; as alſo the Epiſtles of Saint *Peter* (whom they would faine haue to haue beene at Rome) to which our Religion agreeth wholly and fully, wherein ſoeuer wee now differ

from

from the present doctrine of the Church of Rome. Let their writings be Iudge, from which our aduersaries haue greatly erred, as is euidently prooued in all the maine poynts of the Christian Faith. And therefore was it our Religion then professed at Rome, and not this new Romish Faith.

See *Catol. Test. veritat. pag.* 26. to 69 last edition, 1608.

The *second Conuersion* they make to bee in *Eleutherius* dayes, who wrote, as they acknowledge, vnto our King here, called *Lucius*. If here was any conuersion wrought, it was to our Religion, and not to the present Romish Trentisme, as may be clearely gathered out of that Epistle of *Eleutherius*, and which they do approoue of, as written to the same *Lucius*. First, *Eleutherius* there telleth the King, that he had receiued the Law and Faith of Christ. Secondly, (as hereby shewing him where this Law and Faith was to bee found) he telleth him againe immediatly vpon these former words, that he had receiued both the parts of the scriptures. Thirdly, he so commendeth the Scriptures to the King and his Councell, that thence, by Gods grace, they themselues might take a Law to rule the Kingdome. This Bishop did not take vpon him to prescribe them Lawes, hee alloweth them (being Lay persons, as they now speake) to meddle with the holy Scriptures, and from thence (and not from him, nor from his Lawes, nor from the Lawes of the Romanes) to take a Law to liue by. This Bishop therefore held the Scripture sufficient for a direction and guide to a whole Kingdome; hee held them not so obscure, but that the King and his Councell (by Gods grace) though but young Christians, might learne out of them the wil of God, how hee would haue a Christian Kingdome gouerned. Fourthly, this godly Bishop calleth *Lucius* Gods Vicar in his owne Kingdome, and alleageth Scripture to prooue it; hee was not then swolne vp with the pride of Antichristian Supremacy, nor conceited any temporall power ouer kings, as now the Popes doe. Lastly, hee puts wholly the care of the people vpon the King, as a Father to looke to his children, to winne them to the Faith and Law of Christ, and to the holy Church, hereby acknowledging the King to bee the supreme

See the Epist. in the booke of the Lawes of the Saxon Kings, in the Saxons language. Also in *Fox*, Acts and Monum fol. 69. For the authoritie of this Epistle, I take it, as they approoue of it, a witnesse good against themselues.

ſupreme Head and Gouernour in all cauſes, aſwell Eccleſiaſticall, as Ciuill, and to be Gods Vicar in his owne Realme; which title that Biſhop twice nameth in that Epiſtle. Thus we ſee out of this ſhort Epiſtle, what we may thinke of the Religion then at Rome, and how agreeing to ours now, and differing from theirs at this preſent.

The *third conuerſion* (for which they magnifie ſo much this *Auſtin*, but very falſely) was in *Gregorie* the Great his dayes. In which time, though many corruptions were crept into the Church of Rome: yet the maine points of our differences, wherein we differ from this preſent Romiſh ſuperſtition, were then taught in that Church, as may appeare out of the writings of *Gregorie*, as he did then teach, concerning *holy Scriptures, the grace of God, of Freewill, of the Law, of iuſtification, of Faith, of good Workes*, alſo concerning the *not worſhipping of Images*, likewiſe of the acknowledging *of the two Sacraments*, alſo his iudgement *of the Church, of the head of the Church, of Antichriſt, of an vniuerſall Biſhop, of ſecular power ouer Biſhops, of Marriage, of ſoules departed, and whither they went.* *Gregorie* was no Patrone of the *Romiſh Maſſe*, nor of the *corporall and tranſubſtantiated bread*, nor of *merit*, nor of *Papall ſupremacy*, nor of *temporall iuriſdiction ouer Kings and Emperours*, nor of *the neceſſitie of Ceremonies alike in euery Church.* *Gregorie* held *not the Machabees canonicall*, but taught the *perfection of Canonicall Scriptures*; he exhorted *Lay men to the ſtudie of them*, and in his time the *Scriptures were allowed, and prayers were ſaid in a knowne and vulgar tongue*: he held the *Catholike Church to be the elect*, and the reprobate out of it, and was *againſt marriages within degrees forbidden, Leuit.* 18.

See for all theſe in *Cat. Teſt. verit. lib. 6. p.* 558.

See for theſe Biſh *Mortons* Catho. Appeal. *l. 1. c. 3. §. 1.*

Thus we ſee, that at the three conuerſions, our Religion now, and that at Rome then, was one and the ſame. Neither can our aduerſaries ſhew the contrary from *Scripture*, from the *vniforme conſent of ancient Fathers*, either Greeke or Latine, or from *generall Councels* within thoſe times, no nor from *the Biſhops of Rome themſelues*, for that ſpace; if they will make conſcience to deale ſquarely, plainly and honeſtly

in their proofes. And that they may ſo doe, I would entreate to lay aſide firſt, all *counterfeit Decretall Epiſtles*, ſuch as thoſe be, which are aſcribed to the Biſhops of Rome in the firſt 300. yeeres, as our learned men haue prooued both by reaſons, and from the teſtimonie of the learned among them. Secondly, thoſe partly corrupted, and partly alſo counterfeit *Decretall Epiſtles*, in the next 300. yeeres. Thirdly, all the *counterfeit and corrupt Canons of Councels*. Fourthly, all the *baſtard writings* put vpon the ancient Fathers. Fifthly, the *places corrupted* in any of their writings. If they will caſt off this great and wicked deceit, in alleaging theſe for themſelues, the truth of my aſſertion, *That this our Religion was then at Rome, and not this their preſent Romiſh faith*, will manifeſtly appeare to all men not wilfully blinded, for by and worldly reſpects.

Doct. *Feild* of the Church, *b.5.cap.34 Catol. Teſt. verit. lib.1.p.93.*

Laſtly, the Chriſtian Religion firſt planted in Ireland, was before *Auſtins* comming in hither. For, as is afore ſpoken, Scottiſh and Iriſh Chriſtian Biſhops withſtood him at his comming. But that which was then receiued, and profeſſed by the ancient Iriſh, was for ſubſtance the very ſame, which is now here in England by publike authority maintained, as is ſubſtantially proued by a godly learned Father in all Antiquities of the Church, the *Lord Biſhop of Meeth*, to which I referre euery Reader, which deſireth to bee ſatiſfied in theirs, and our agreement about *Scripture tranſlations, predeſtination, freewill, the Law, ſinne, free remiſſion of ſins, iuſtification by faith onely, imperfection of ſanctification, merit, purgatorie, and ſoules departed, about Gods worſhip, Images, the Maſſe, communicating in both kinds, and the myſticall receiuing of the Sacrament*. That Learned man doth ſhew, how wee and they doe agree in all theſe things, which are the moſt maine points of faith betwixt our aduerſaries and vs. And therefore I conclude from this, and all that formerly hath beene produced in this fifth Argument, that this our preſent Religion was heere in this Iland before *Auſtins* time.

See his Epiſtle before named.

VI. *Argu-*

VI. *Argument.*

From God the Author, and continuall Preſeruer of our Religion, againſt all oppoſitions.

THat *Religion which is of God, was before* Luthers *time*: for that which is of God, cannot bee aſcribed to man; nor ſo new, as the late dayes of *Luther*. For the true Religion is the moſt ancient, and this is the good way to be found in the old wayes, and not in new inuentions, and new by-paths. Ier. 6. 14.

But our Religion is of God, which I thus proue:

It was taught by the Prophets and Apoſtles, meſſengers of God: the Prophets were ſent by him, 2. *Chron.* 36. 16. 2. *King.* 17. 13. *Ier.* 25. 4. by whom God ſpake, *Heb.* 1. 1. and they taught and wrote, as the holy Ghoſt directed them, 2. *Pet.* 1. 21. 2. *Tim.* 3. 25. The Apoſtles were ſent of God, *Matth.* 10. 5. *Mark.* 16. 16. *Gal.* 1. 1, 12. and ſpake, as God by his Spirit directed them, *Matth.* 10. 20. *Ioh.* 14. 26. Theſe were the publiſhers of our Religion, both in the common truthes of our Chriſtianitie, as alſo in the differences from our aduerſaries. And for proofe, wee appeale to the Apoſtles and Prophets extant writings. Our Religion is written in thoſe holy Scriptures, the Booke of God, as before is prooued. It is propagated and preſerued by ſuch meanes, as be ordained of God, of which alſo before. It is receiued, beleeued, conſcience made of it, onely by the operation of the Spirit of God. It bringeth men to the true knowledge of God, to beleeue onely in God, to worſhip onely God, onely to honour God, and to be ruled onely after the will of God. Its onely vpheld and preſerued by Gods, and not by mans power. This will eaſily bee granted, if men conſider what weake meanes, in mans iudgement, hath ſpred it abroad, and brought it into eſteeme with ſuch as profeſſe it truly, (to wit) onely *preaching, praying*, and *conſtantly ſuffering* in the defence thereof. Alſo, the

ſmall number, and meaneneſſe of the perſons for the moſt part, which haue from the dayes of Ieſus Chriſt, made profeſſion thereof; and withall, the little worldly policy vſed for helpe to ſupport it. But on the other ſide if the enemies thereof be well conſidered, who haue continued from the beginning of the Goſpell, perpetually endeuouring to vndermine our Religion, euery one will yeeld it to be the very hand of God, that maintaineth it. The multitude of them out of the Church are infinite; as Iewes, Gentiles, Saracens, Turkes, and a world of other Infidels. The Heretikes which haue riſen vp, and gone out from the true Church, and haue laboured to ſhake the very foundation of our Chriſtian Faith, very many. The Hypocrites and prophane, are too many, which profeſſing the ſame together with vs, yet are deadly enemies to the effectuall operation thereof, denying the power of it, and deriding ſuch as ſtriue to liue ſtrictly, and would expreſſe the liuely vertue and force of it. What diuiſions, what variety of ſects and ſchiſmes, haue, and doe yet hinder the growth of our Religion? And laſtly, theſe laſt Enemies of it, the Papiſts, vnder that Antichriſt of Rome; againſt whom, if God himſelfe had not fought, and vpheld our Religion, they had ere this, vtterly extinguiſhed it. And who will denie this, that ſeriouſly conſidereth our ſimplicitie, and their deepe policie; our too much diſtractions, their ſtrong combination; our ſmall ſtrength, their great power; our meane eſtates, their abundance of wealth and treaſures; our more then ſupine carelеſneſſe, their continuall watchfulneſſe, and daily endeuours, which poſſibly Satan can put into their hearts, to root out our holy profeſſion? as by their cruell Inquiſition, mercileſſe perſecution, barbarous Maſſacres, horrible Treaſons, vniuſt Inuaſions, bloody Warres, the neuer to be forgotten Gunpowder plot, killing of Kings, faithleſſe and treacherous dealings, playing faſt and looſe with vs by lying Equiuocations, and mentall Reſeruations, in all couenants, promiſes, & oathes: beſides, their ſhameleſſe belying our perſons, foule and falſe taxing vs of errors and hereſies, imputed to our doctrine

and

and Religion, Libertiniſme, Atheiſme, and other abominations; their flattering of Kings, and ſugeſtion of falſhoods of diſloyalty againſt ſuch, as they find beſt affected to our Religion; their politike framing of their religion for worldly reſpects, to euery mans humor, to entangle the ſooner mens mindes, to get the more to them; beſides all thoſe helliſh deuices before mentioned in the firſt argument, among which is the corrupting of Fathers, and the Writing of learned men, both old and new, that ſo we might be altogether deſtitute of all humane teſtimonies to witneſſe with vs, or any helpe of man, but to be left to ſtand (as indeede we doe) by the hand of God, the onely Author of our Faith and Religion, and the onely bleſſed Preſeruer of the ſame hitherto, before *Luther* was borne; who now alſo euen in theſe troubleſome times doth keepe it on foote, againſt all the power and policie of our Enemies, prayſed be his holy Name for euer and euer, *Amen.*

If our Aduerſaries thinke, that here is all that can be ſaid for vs, or that onely we can thus procure our Religion, they are much deceiued: for much more may be ſaid, and alſo otherwiſe, then by Hiſtorie, may our Religion, and the Profeſſors be ſhewed at large. This, for the preſent, is onely to confirme ſuch, as in our Church truly feare God, and make conſcience of their waies: for ſuch doers of Gods will ſhall know, whether this doctrine be of God, or no, *Ioh.* 7. 17.

THE AVTHORS FARTHER HELPE TO ſtay the honeſt-hearted Proteſtant from Apoſtacie.

WEl-diſpoſed Reader, thou haſt an anſwer to the queſtion, Where our Religion was before *Luther?* If yet further they aske thee, Where were the Profeſſors thereof alſo before this time? Thou mayſt thence ſhape them this anſwere, Euen where the Apoſtles and Apoſtolicall men did teach it, and where Saints profeſſed it, and Martyrs dyed for it.

It is not ſo difficult a matter, as they would make the world beleeue, to bring forth in euery Age the Profeſſours of this our Chriſtian Faith. A harder and a more impoſſible taske is it, for them to prooue from Chriſt and his Apoſtles, who, and where the perſons were, that in euery Age made an intire profeſſion of euery point, which now this their preſent Romiſh Church teacheth and practiſeth. Wee will doe the former, if they will faithfully performe this latter.

The Papiſts cannot make a true Catalogue from Chriſt, of their preſent Religion.

They haue ſet out, as they call it, a Catalogue of chiefe Paſtors, Generall Councels, and Catholike Profeſſors, of which they much glory, ſeducing therewith the ſimple and vnaduiſed. They doe begin with Chriſt, then follow they on with Saint *Peter*, and other Biſhops of Rome on the one ſide: on the other, they place the Virgin *Marie*, *Iohn Baptiſt*, Saint *Iohn* the Apoſtle, with other Apoſtles and Euangeliſts: then they reckon vp Chriſtian Churches, as the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, and the reſt, to whom Saint *Paul*

Paul and Saint *Peter* wrote; and so they run on along to the end. Now this is it, that thou shouldest demand of them, and put them to proue, whether Christ and his Apostles taught, and all the rest there mentioned, did learne and practise, all that the Church of Rome now doth? If they can shew this but in the first hundred of yeeres, professe thou to be satisfied, and not to require farther after a continuall succession in the Ages following. Presse this home to them, stand onely vpon this; this is plaine dealing, to begin with them, where they begin. And if they will not indeuour to satisfie thee in this, certainely the Catalogue of the names of Christ, of his Apostles, and the rest in the Primitiue Church, are put onely in the forefront to coozen thee, if they can. For will they begin it with Christ, Saint *Peter*, & the rest, and yet not proue them of their present Religion? If they can, why doe they it not? Why do they seeke to put it off? If they cannot, why claime they these, for the Authors and maintainers of this their present Romish Religion? I say their present Romish Religion; because there is a great difference betweene the Religion *once at Rome* in the Apostles dayes, and the Religion *of Rome now*; that of *the Church* then, this of the *Court & fashion* there now. And here I pray thee wel vnderstand this one thing, to wit, what they meane by *their Religion*: we also do by *our Religion*; we neither side took it only for that wherein we both do agree, but chiefely because of the distinct differences therof either from the other: this obserue, that thou mayst not bee deceiued by the Catalogue. And the better to cleare thy iudgement therein, let them shew thee, that Iesus Christ, that also his Apostles, with the rest, in the first hundred of yeeres, taught not onely that, wherein we and they doe agree (for so they gaine nothing to themselues, but the Catalogue therein serues for vs, as well as for them) but also that they taught and obserued all their now present differences from vs: as for example, let them shew that then was taught and the Churches learned;

What to demand of them, and to presse them vnto.

What are the things, which in their Catalogue from Christ, they must proue those in the first Age to haue maintained.

1. To picture the holy Trinitie, to make Images, to worship

ſhip them, to adore the Virgin *Mary*, as our Lady, and the Queene of Heauen: alſo to pray vnto other Saints and Angels, and to adore their Images and Reliques.

II. To hold the Scriptures to be imperfect and obſcure, that the Apocryphall bookes were of diuine Authority, the Latine Tranſlation was to be authenticall, that Traditions were to be added to perfit the Scriptures, concerning neceſſary matters of ſaluation; that the authoritie of the holy Scriptures doth depend vpon the authoritie of the Church; that they are not to be made ſo free, as to be read and ſtudied of all without licence.

III. To hold ſeuen Sacraments, that Baptiſme is to bee adminiſtred with hallowed Water, with Chryſme, Salt, Spittle, Coniuring, and other deuices.

IV. To beleeue, that the Prieſt may receiue the Sacrament alone, and yet many other Chriſtians to be there preſent looking on: that the Bread without the Cup, is to be giuen to the people: that after the words of conſecration, the Bread is turned into the very naturall body of Chriſt, the accidents of Bread and Wine onely remaining, but not the ſubſtance: that it is to be adored and prayed vnto, and to be carried about in Proceſſion: that it is to bee adminiſtred with ſuch variety of garments, alterations of geſtures, and change of voice: that it is a propitiatory ſacrifice for the quicke and the dead.

V. To make prayer, to adminiſter the Sacraments, and to ſay all diuine ſeruice in an vnknowne Tongue: to ſay the Creed amongſt Prayers, the *Aue Mary* as a prayer, with the *Pater noſter* vpon Beads with Croſſes, and that to a certaine number, repeating the *Aue Mary* forty times, and the *Pater noſter* foure times, with a *Creede* at the end: that many thus praying, though they vnderſtand not the words which they vtter, yet hauing a good intent, they do a work pleaſing to God.

VI. To hold the Church of Rome to bee the Mother Church, the onely One, Holy, Catholike, and Apoſtolike Church: that it could not erre, and that all which ſhould not

not beleeue euer, as it beleeueth, ſhould not bee held for ſound Chriſtians, and ſuch as ſhould not ſubmit to her authoritie, to be held Heretikes.

VII. To hold the Pope of Rome to bee Chriſts Vicar, and *Peters* ſucceſſor: that all ſhould depend vpon him, as vpon their Head: that he as Pope cannot erre *è Cathedrâ*: that to him, as of right, belongeth the ſpirituall and temporall iuriſdiction, and ſo hath authoritie to make Lawes, to bind conſcience, to depoſe Kings, and to diſpoſe of their Kingdomes: that he and his Clergie are exempt from the authoritie of Secular power.

VIII. To hold ſeuen degrees of Prieſthood: that there are ſacrifizing Prieſts, in the time of the Goſpell: that all the Clergie are to liue a ſingle life.

IX. To ſet vp high and worldly dignities in the Church, as Kingly Cardinals, Prince-like vnpreaching Prelates and Paſtors ouer Congregations, not able to teach them: to allow infinite Orders of Monkes, Friers and Nunnes.

X. To beleeue, that there is a *Limbus Patrum*, a *Limbus Infantium*, and a place called Purgatorie.

In their Catalogue they are to bring Chriſt, his Apoſtles, and all the reſt therein named, for teachers and profeſſours of theſe things, and the like, elſe are they not to be reputed of this their preſent Religion.

Vrge them (friendly Reader) vnto the proofe of theſe particular differences; till then, keepe thy right ſtanding, and be not mooued with a ſhew of names.

In the meane ſpace, that thou mayeſt be wel aſſured, that thou art a true member of the Catholike Church of Chriſt, though no Romane Catholike haue recourſe vnto thy Baptiſme, and the Couenant which God made with thee, and thou with him therein. Aske them (when any of them goeth about to ſeduce thee) whether they thinke, that thou haſt receiued true Baptiſme? If they ſay, Yea, (as they cannot anſwere truly otherwiſe, though wee were baptized of very condemned Heretikes, as the Trent Councel decreeth) then demand of them againe, Whether true Baptiſme doth

Proteſtants are of the Catholike Church, though no Romaniſts.

In Can. 3. de bapt.

admit the baptized into the true Church of God, or no? If it doe, know of them, that then being thereby receiued into the true Church, why thou and wee so baptized, should not still be of it in their account? Will them to shew, what we teach and beleeue, differing from them, that hath disannulled our Couenant with God, and how we come to bee out of the Church?

Part.1. Art.9. cap.10.q.8. What sorts are out of the Church.

The Romane Catechisme (which with them is of great authoritie) telleth vs, that men are out of the Church, as *Infidels*, which neuer were in it; as *Heretikes*, *Schismatikes*, and *Excommunicated persons*, once of it; whereto may be added, such as be *Apostates*, wholly renouncing Christ. Taking this for granted, that these be all, and then that we be none of these, it must needs follow, that we are through Baptisme yet in the true Church.

I hope, our aduersaries will not say, that wee be either of the first, or last sort: let them cleare vs of that, and we will well enough acquit our selues of the rest.

Protestants no Heretikes.

I. *We are not* (though they so call vs commonly) *Heretikes:* If they please, let the *Catholike Moderator* pleade for vs; or let them beleeue their owne moderate Answerer (to whom my L. of Couentry and Lichfield maketh reply) who

In his booke of equiuocation.

saith, that he supposeth, that no one particular learned Catholike in this Kingdome, doth, or will defend this opinion, *That Protestants are Heretikes, and excommunicate.* If these on their side will not be sufficient to cleare vs, let vs learne from them, what an Heretike is, and so cleare our selues thereby. *An Heretike* (saith the Romane Catechisme) *is he which neglecting the Churches authoritie, doth maintaine impious opinions obstinately.* By this we cannot be proued to be Heretikes, this cannot agree to vs.

Part.1. Art.9. cap.10.q.1.

Protestants hold no impious opinions condemned for heresie.

For first, we may demand, What impious opinions either affirmatiue, or negatiue, do we hold, which they can iustly taxe vs of? Let them instance what pleaseth them, and then proouc the same to be heresie: first, by plaine and pregnant places of holy Scripture, which may conuince the conscience of indifferēt men. Secōdly, by general Councels, or by

any

any one generall Councell within 600. yeres after Chriſt (in which ſpace were moſt famous & renowned Councels) that hath condemned any maine doctrine of our Faith for hereſie. Thirdly, by the vnanimous conſent, and generall voyce of the Greeke and Latine Fathers, for that ſpace condemning the ſame for hereſie, and for an impious opinion. Let them, if they bee able, ſhew, firſt, *in our faith*, that wee hold any thing, againſt any Article of our Creed, which is the ſumme of our beliefe. Secondly, *in our Prayers*, any thing againſt the patterne of all true prayers, commonly called, The Lords Prayer. Thirdly, *in our deeds*, which we teach to be done, or bid to be left vndone, any thing againſt any of the Commandements in the Decalogue, the rule of our obedience. If they can thus fairely and euidently proceede, they ſhould doe well ſo to conuince vs.

Secondly, if any impious opinions could be found among vs, it muſt be conſidered, whether they be broched by priuate perſons, or tenents held of the Church in her publike Records: If the former, then are they not the Churches; if the Church ſhould hold any ſuch, how can they proue, that ſhe maintaineth them obſtinately? For obſtinacy is not to be imputed vnto vs, till all lawfull, good, and ſufficient meanes haue been vſed to conuince our iudgement, and the ſame alſo by ſuch, as haue lawfull and full authority to iudge and determine thereof. But hitherto this hath not been done, neither can it be, but by a lawfull and free generall Councell, which the Conuenticle of Trent was not: till then we are not to be condemned of obſtinacie, and ſo as yet no Heretikes.

Proteſtants are not conuicted of obſtinacy.

See the Hiſtorie of the Councell of Trent.

Thirdly, we neither haue neglected, nor yet doe neglect the true Catholike Churches authority, into which we are receiued by Baptiſme. For we very willingly deſire to heare her ſentence: but where can that bee, except in a generall Councels determination? therein to heare the Catholike Church ſpeaking to vs from the Scriptures, we greatly long for, we readily ſubmit vnto. Let her thus ſpeak, that we may know her Iudgement, and we will hearken thereunto.

Proteſtants do not neglect the authoritie of the Catholike Church.

As for the Church of Romes authoritie, wee doe not acknowledge it ouer vs, becauſe it is not, nor euer was in her beſt eſtate, the Catholike Church, but onely a particular Church, which now alſo is a party queſtioned. And therfore her authoritie for her ſelfe againſt vs, is no more of vs to be regarded, then by them our Churches authority for her ſelf againſt them. Seeing then that by their definition, wee are not conuinced of Hereſie, wee are not out of the Church as Heretikes.

Proteſtants are no Schiſmatikes.

II. *Not as Schiſmatikes.* For albeit we haue now departed from this Romiſh Church, yet are we no Schiſmatikes.

Firſt, for that wee keepe communion with the Catholike Church, into which we by Baptiſme were admitted, which is the body of Chriſt, and wee truly members thereof, in faith and loue, through the worke of Gods Spirit, being built vpon the foundation of the Apoſtles and Prophets, Ieſus Chriſt himſelfe being the Corner-ſtone.

Eph. 3.20.

Secondly, becauſe this Church of Rome hath falne from the faith and obedience commended by S. *Paul*, to be in the Church at Rome in his time, as appeareth in many particulars before named, which the Church firſt planted at Rome, neuer taught, neuer beleeued, nor practiſed. Therefore are we no Schiſmatikes for leauing her in thoſe things, wherein ſhee hath left the true and Apoſtolike Church at the beginning.

Thirdly, for that we doe not breake off from her ſimply, but in ſome reſpect; that is, as farre foorth as ſhe hath forſaken her former ſelfe; ſo that if ſhee would returne to the Catholike Faith and Religion, and forſake her *Trentiſme*, *Ieſuitiſme*, and *Popery*, the inuentions of her owne, added to that which firſt ſhe did profeſſe, wee want not charity towards her, to vnite our ſelues vnto her againe. For otherwiſe, neither our true loue to God, nor true loue to his Church, will ſuffer vs to liue with her, ſo defiled as ſhe is, in the ſpirituall bond of ſacred loue, which knits the true members of Chriſt one to another. Heauenly charity, which maketh this vnitie, admitteth not of ſuch things into the vnitie

vnitie of faith, as bee taught and practiſed in that Church, both ſinfull againſt God, and pernicious to mens ſoules, yea, vtter deſtruction to them, without heartie repentance.

Fourthly, wee haue a warrant, yea, a commandement from God, to ſeparate our ſelues from her, for that ſhe is become the great Whore, and ſpirituall Babylon, *Reuel.* 18. 4. This charge of God freeth vs from Schiſme: for there is no ſin, no Schiſme, in that which God commandeth to be done.

Let them anſwer the books which proone her the great Whore, Babylon, and the Pope Antichriſt, if any denie theſe things.

Fifthly, we by leauing this Romiſh Church, doe not deuide our ſelues from the true, Catholike and Apoſtolike Church, but by this ſeparation doe we indeed returne to the vnitie of it, and to our firſt bleſſed eſtate therein, when firſt the Goſpell was here planted in this Iland by Apoſtles, or Apoſtolicall men, which came hither, not from Rome, but from Ieruſalem, our Mother Church, where the Lord and his bleſſed Apoſtles firſt began to teach, and erect a Church, which is the Church we returne vnto in doctrine and worſhip of God: from which Holy, Catholike, and Apoſtolike Church, wee were drawne by the vſurping and tyrannical power and iuriſdiction of the Pope and his faction, and the generall backſliding of this his Church. So as this which they call Schiſme, is no Schiſme in vs, but a forſaking of ſchiſme in them, & is only a returning vnto, and a recouerie of our ſelues againe to our former vnion with Chriſts true Church, beginning at Ieruſalem, and planted here many hundred yeeres, before the Monke *Auſtine* euer came into England.

Sixthly, *They are properly called Schiſmatikes* (ſaith *Aquinas*) *which of their owne accord and will, ſeparate themſelues from the vnitie of the Church.* If this be true in the iudgement of this their owne ſo greatly honoured Doctor, then certainely wee are no Schiſmatikes.

In ſumma part. 2. cap. 39. de Schiſmate.

Firſt, of our owne accord and will we make not a ſeparation, but are inforced therto by the power of Gods commandement, to come out of this Babylon, to auoyde her ſinnes, to eſeape thereby her puniſhments. She her ſelfe hath cauſed deuiſion, and offences, contrary to the doctrine which ſhee once receiued, as the Epiſtles of S. *Paul* and S. *Peter*, do in many particulars witneſſe againſt her. The Apoſtle S. *Paul* therefore wils vs to auoyde her, and ſuch as cauſe deuiſion and offences, contrary to

Reuel. 18. 4.

See for theſe, *Cat. Teſt. verit. pa.* 27 *to* 70. in the laſt Edition.

the Apostles doctrine, *Rom.*16.17. It may seeme from hence, that a faction begun euen then among you.

Secondly, we doe not separate from *the Church*, that is, from the vniuersall Catholike Church, but from *a Church*, that is, the particular Church of Rome: for *Thomas* doth not say, Hee is a Schismatike, which separateth from an Church, but from the vnitie of the Church, to wit, the Church vniuersall, which is but one. For indeed, no reason can bee giuen, why any should deuide themselues from the true Catholike Church: but good reasons may be giuen, why a particular Church may be, and ought to bee forsaken; as wee doe giue, for our departing from the Church of Rome: for we are commanded to forsake Idolaters, 1.*Cor.*5.11. Heretikes, *Tit.*3.10. such as bring not the doctrine of Christ, and doe not abide therein, 2.*Ioh.*10. and her that is called Babylon, *Reuel.*18.4.

Thirdly, before we can be Schismatikes, we must forsake the vnitie of the Church. Now wherein stands this vnitie? Standeth it only in affection of loue, or also in the faith of the truth? For both these graces the Apostle commendeth the Churches, *Eph.*1.15. 2.*Thes.*1.3. and faith is preferred to the first place in both Scriptures. We haue not forsaken the vnity of the Faith, of which S.*Paul* speakes, *Eph.*4.13. For we teach the doctrine of the Apostles, and no other in any thing, when we differ from this present Church of Rome, which hath lost her first faith, of truth in many things. Now, can true diuine loue be there kept, where faith is lost? or can there be charitie to vnite, where doctrine doth deuide? Can light and darkenesse, truth and falsehood cohabite in loue? Truth and loue onely dwell together; and for truths sake, loue separateth from falshood, whersoeuer she finds it. And therefore except they can proue, that we haue lost the vnitie of faith, wee haue not forsaken the vnitie of the Church in loue, as the former reasons shew.

To conclude, were the Priests and Leuites Schismatikes, 2.Ch.11,13,14 which left the people of Israel, once the people of God in *Dauids* and *Salomons* dayes, and many hundred yeres before, when Idolatrie, vnder pretence to worship no false, but the true God, was set vp, and they not suffered then to do their office vnto the Lord, as their office required? If they were not, no more are we.

For

For why doe we forſake the Romiſh Church? Is it not, becauſe ſhe hath ſet vp a new manner of ſeruice vnto God, new kinds of Prieſts, new Holy-dayes, new Sacraments, new Orders, and will not permit the Lords Seruants and Miniſters to do their Offices vnto the Lord as he hath by his written Word preſcribed?

Therefore ſeeing we are not guiltie of Schiſme, we are not as Schiſmatikes out of the Church, into which by Baptiſme, wee are receiued.

III. *Not as excommunicate perſons.* For if we be neither Heretikes, nor Schiſmatikes, vpon what other ground will they iudge vs to be proceeded againſt? There are other cauſes, for which men are excommunicate: but in this queſtion our aduerſaries cannot plead any ſuch. Againe, I aske, if we bee excommunicate, who hath pronounced the ſentence? Is it the Romiſh Church? By what authoritie? Their Church is not the Catholike Church, but only a particular, as ours is, and it is by vs queſtioned, and therefore in reaſon it cannot bee both a Partie accuſed, and alſo a Iudge againſt vs in her owne cauſe. Thirdly, we doe appeale from her vnrighteous iudgement, to a lawfull generall Councell, where, vpon earth, our cauſe is onely to bee heard and decided lawfully. Till which time, wee (for any cenſure of this Church of Rome) doe remaine in the true Church, into which by Baptiſme wee are admitted; out of which, as yet, we are not lawfully iudged to bee, by any lawfull and ſupreme authoritie, as either Heretickes, Schiſmatikes, or as excommunicate perſons. Proteſtants not excommunicate perſons.

Therefore (Chriſtian-harted Reader) thou that art a member of the Church of England, though thou beeſt no Romaniſt, aſſure thy ſoule, that thou art of that Church, which is vndoubtedly a member of the True, Ancient, Catholike, and Apoſtolike Church, in which abiding, thou maieſt, through the merits of thy bleſſed Sauiour, obtaine eternall life, if thou ſo beleeuing doeſt demeane thy ſelfe, as it becommeth a good Chriſtian, and a Proteſtant in earneſt.

And for thine owne more certaine aſſurance and ſtable abiding, let me aduiſe thee to a few things. Haue a care to keepe thy Couenant in thy Baptiſme, that thou maiſt be better perſwaded, that God keepes his with thee, and ſo to be one of his in How a man muſt be qualified, which will continue in the truth.

in the true Church. Labour to feare God, for it is the beginning of wiſdome, and the ſecrets of the Lord are with ſuch as feare him, and he will ſhew them his couenant, *Pſal.* 25. 14. Haue euer a loue of the truth, and God will not giue thee ouer to beleeue lyes: for this is a iudgement befalling ſuch as loue not the truth, beleeue it not, but take pleaſure in vnrighteouſneſſe. Be a doer of the Word, and thou ſhalt know the doctrine, whether it bee of God, or no. Beware of affected ignorance, and careleſſe neglect of knowledge, but vſe the meanes appointed to attaine vnto it. Exerciſe thy ſelfe much in prayer, beg of God wiſdome, and hee will giue it thee; his Spirit, and he will vouchſafe it thee; pray againſt ſedition, and God will keepe thee; frequent the company of ſuch as haue knowledge, the feare of God before them, the loue of the truth in them, and make conſcience of their wayes. Aske aduice of faithfull Teachers, liſten not to falſe Teachers, feare to be ſeduced.

Prou 1.

2. Theſ. 2. 10, 11, 12.

Iohn 7. 17.

Iam. 1. 5.

Luk. 11. 13.

By what helpes to oppoſe the aduerſaries.

And further, that thou mayſt both defend the truth, and alſo be able according to thy meaſure receiued, to reſiſt the aduerſaries;

Plaine Scriptures.

I. Learne carefully the truthes of God, neceſſarie to ſaluation, ſet downe in holy Scriptures. Such truths are very manifeſtly and plainely deliuered, either in expreſſe termes, or by an vndoubted conſequent drawne from thence; and all ſuch neceſſarie points as concerne all, are written in the Scriptures, as their *Bellarmine* confeſſeth.

Aug. l. 2. de doct. Chr. cap. 6. Chryſoſt. 3. hom. in 2. Theſ. Lib. 4. de verbo Dei non ſcripto, cap. 11.

With theſe Scriptures acquaint thy ſelfe, and being an ordinarie Chriſtian, doe not trouble thy ſelfe about obſcure places: for plaine and eaſie places will bee ſufficient to confirme thy faith in any thing neceſſary for thee, to beleeue and practize in the way of ſaluation.

The parts of the Catechiſme.

II. Be well grounded in the Catechiſme, the parts whereof are the *Creed*, the *Lords Prayer*, the *Decalogue*, and the *doctrine of the Sacraments*: for theſe are the *compendium*, or ſhort ſumme of all Chriſtianitie. Theſe well vnderſtood, will furniſh thee with reaſons to withſtand ſeducers. There is not any thing of which they ſhall ſpeake, but the ſame may be brought to ſome head in Catechiſme, as either concerning Faith, and ſo referred to the Creed, or concerning Praier, and ſo referred to the Lords Prayer,

Prayer, or concerning obedience, and ſo referred to the Decalogue, or tenne Commandements, or elſe touching the Sacraments, the Seales of our Faith.

III. Adde to theſe, certaine conſiderations, by which thou mayeſt defend the truth, and ouerthrow falſhood, as the common law of Nature, common reaſon, right vſe of ſenſes, common experience, common equitie, common charitie, common honeſtie, the witneſſe of knowne Martyrs; whereto adde the corruption of our nature, allowing or diſliking of any thing. By the plaine euidence of Scripture, by the Catechiſme, and by theſe conſiderations, mayſt thou trie all things, which be neceſſarie for thee to ſtand vpon. Nine conſiderations.

If a ſeducer come to thee, and that hee will needs deale with thee, obſerue two things; firſt, not to regard what he ſaith; if it be not about neceſſary points. Secondly, ſee that his confirmation, or confutation, be onely by either ſome, or all theſe three aforenamed; to wit, plaine Scriptures, the parts of the Catechiſme, and thoſe conſiderations, from whence if hee cannot proue his aſſertions, beleeue him not. If he begin to tell thee of *Councels, ancient Fathers, and the Churches cuſtome* in all Ages: anſwere him, firſt, that the three former are knowne to thee, the Bible common at hand, the Catechiſme in thy remembrance, and the conſiderarion of ſuch as are without difficultie: but as for theſe three laſt, great reading, and learning, and knowledge in Hiſtorie, are required to vnderſtand them well, and to cite them truly. They are for the beſt learned of the world, and not for any of the common ſort: ordinarie men cannot iudge aright by them, neither will any ſuch preſume, to thinke ſuch abilitie to be in them, if they would take notice of diuers things concerning Councels, Fathers, and the Churches cuſtome. Obſerue two things in the aduerſaries dealing with thee. Three things beyond ordinary meanes capacitie, which they muſt take heed, they be not deceiued by.

I. Touching Councels, they muſt know, that they are not onely ſubiect to errour, but alſo haue erred: that they haue contradicted one another: that ſome of them haue been carried by a ſtrong faction: that ancient Fathers would not reſt euer vpon the ſole authoritie of Councels: that Papiſts themſelues, though they pretend them, yet doe not wholly reſigne their iudgement vnto them: that there are ſome counterfeite and forged Councels, and counterfeite Canons added to true Councels. Can an ordinarie man then iudge of theſe things? And if he cannot, let Ordinary men cannot iudge of Councels, and why?

him not be deceiued by pretence of them.

Not of the allegation of Fathers, and why?

II. Touching the ancient Fathers, this they must know, that they are found to be of differing opinions, and had contentions among themselues: that they held not their own iudgements infallible, nor submitted to one another otherwise, then men godly and learned doe now, but onely as by good reason and authoritie they were ouercome: that they haue erred; and this is acknowledged by most learned men on both sides: that our aduersaries of the greatest note, do often shake off their authority, when they are against them: that of the Fathers writings, some are doubted of, some are corrupted, and many counterfeites are put out vnder their names: that the iudgement of all the Fathers cannot bee had for all our controuersies. These things being so, how idle is it then for ordinary men to bee talking of Fathers, of the opinion of all the Fathers, or for any such men to bee carried away with such a sound, which is not possible for them to vnderstand, seeing our aduersaries alleage them for their selues, and wee more truly for our selues?

Not of the allegation of the Churches custome, and why?

III. Concerning the Churches custome and path in euerie age, let them consider, that this is very vncertaine. Historians haue not alwaies in euery relation bin found faithfull: that euerie Age hath not had in it such as haue truely written of the Church: that a man may spend his whole life, in seeking out the whole Churches course, and yet not be able to find it out. I suppose, I erre not, if I say, that all men now liuing, cannot do it exactly in euery Age. And therefore its but a gulling flourish of our aduersaries, to boast of *the whole Church in euerie Age*, and yet withall, so boasting fraudulently to meane their owne particular Romane Church.

By alleaging then these arguments, to wit, Councels, Fathers, and the generall custome of the whole Church, the conscience of an ordinary Christian cannot bee throughly satisfied, his knowledge cannot herein bee certaine to conuince his iudgement, these are beyond his reach and capacity. Be aduised therefore not to be drawne with these reasons, which are to thee so vncertaine, but rest vpon the other which be plaine and easie, within thy capacity, and certaine vnto thee; by which thou mayst, through Gods helpe, maintaine that which thou profes-

sest,

ſeſt, and confute the aduerſaries vntruths, or at leaſt, gather thence ſuch ſtrength, as they ſhall not eaſily draw thee to beleeue them: as for inſtance, in ſome particulars I will ſhew thee.

They ſay, that the Pope is the Head of the Catholike Church. There is no plaine Scripture for this. We find Ieſus Chriſt to be called the Head of the Church, but no other. Its no Article of our Creed; therefore thou art not bound to beleeue it. But I adde this, that what we beleeue, is inuiſible, *Heb.* 11.1. and not ſeene, 2. *Cor.* 5.7. If therefore the Pope be the Head, there muſt be a viſible head, of an inuiſible body. Againe, the head immediately giues life, motion, and direction to its true body, which the Pope cannot doe to Chriſts Church. Its alſo vnreaſonable to think, two heads to bee for one body; whether one beſides another, or one vnder another, it is a monſtrouſity. Common experience teſtifieth againſt the Popes inabilitie to performe the true office of the true Head to Gods Church. Againſt the Popes headſhip.

They ſay, that he cannot erre. Let it be taken in the beſt ſenſe they can conceiue it, there is no plaine Scripture which giueth this to any one particular perſon. Its no Article of our Creed to beleeue it, experience hath found him to haue erred foully. Againſt his vnerring ſpirit.

They ſay, that after the words of conſecration, the bread is turned into the very body of Chriſt, and the wine into his blood, ſo as Ieſus Chriſt is there corporally, as he was borne of the Virgin Mary, *vnder the accidents of bread and wine.* In holy Scripture there is no ſuch thing taught, there is a ſacramentall phraſe, *This is my body*; and the like vſed in the Sacraments of the old Teſtament, *This is my Couenant*, *Ge.* 17.10. *This is the Lords Paſſeouer*, *Exo.* 12.11. *The Rocke was Chriſt*, 1. *Cor.* 10.4. but yet no turning one ſubſtance into another. The Creed teacheth vs to beleeue him to be in heauen, and thence to expect his comming, when he ſhall appeare to iudge the quick and the dead. This tranſubſtantiation therefore is no part of our Faith. Its againſt reaſon, for a true body, and continued quantitie, to be in two places, yea, in a thouſand mouthes at once. The Angels reaſon vnto *Marie*, *Mat.* 28.6. confuteth this groſſe opinion; for he ſaid to her, when ſhe with the other *Marie* came to ſeeke Chriſt; *He is not here, for hee is riſen:* that is, He is not in this place, becauſe he is elſe-where in another. If Chriſt could haue been in two places at once, the Againſt tranſubſtantiation.

Angels argument hath been of no force; remember that this is an Angel-reason, which know wee how to reason truly. This opinion is against our sences, wee see not, feele not, nor taste not flesh and blood. Now God neuer deluded mans sences, whensoeuer he turned one substance into another: *Moses* staffe was made a Serpent, dust was Lice, the water blood, and water was wine, and all these sensible. No Scripture, nor any other approued testimony can be produced, to shew vndoubtedly the contrarie. Yea, this is certaine, that the true body of Christ is discernable by sense to be a true body whersoeuer it is; therefore when the Disciples doubted at his sudden appearing, he said, *It is I my selfe*. And to proue this, he willeth them to vse their senses, saying, *Handle me, and see*; that so they might discerne his true body, flesh and bones: and so might it be in the Sacrament, if indeed and truth he were there corporally. It hath been witnessed against by the blood of many Martyrs: but where bee so many in defence of our aduersaries grosse opinion? Which of them haue euer hitherto, or dare to suffer for this their opinion, as ours haue done against it? This opinion of our aduersaries is to be detested for, first, the falshood thereof; secondly, for the grosse idolatrie committed through it, euen a piece of bread adored for Almightie Iesus Christ himselfe. Thirdly, for the bloodie crueltie, which for the vpholding of it, hath been done with furious rage vpon the bodies of Gods Saints, because they would not beleeue this false doctrine, nor commit this abominable idolatrie. Fourthly, all such as thus beleeue, sinne not only in the act damnably (for Idolaters perish euerlastingly, *Reuel.* 21.8.) but also irrepentably, because they be perswaded, that in so beleeuing and worshipping, they doe not onely not sin, but doe a most excellent worke, and meritorious seruice to God.

Exod 4.3. & 7.10, 20, 21, 24. & 8.17. Ioh. 2 9,10.

Luke 24.39.

The euill of the doctrine of transubstantiation.

Against Purgatorie.

They teach, that there is a Purgatorie, a place of torment. In holy Scriptures we find plainely, Heauen, Earth, Hell, & Sea; but no plaine name of Purgatory, nor *Limbus Patrum*, nor *Limbus Infantum*. In the Decalogue we find Heauen, Earth, and Waters vnder the Earth; and in the Lords Prayer, Heauen and Earth; in the Creed, Heauen, Earth and Hell: but none of the other deuised and faigned places. This Purgatory for satisfaction is against common equitie: for they say, the sinne is pardoned by Christ

and

and can then in equity the partie be puniſhed? A Creditor forgiues freely to a man all his debt: can he then with equitie after lay him in Gaole to make any ſatisfaction for the ſame?

They ſay, that Images may be ſet vp to be adored. The Scriptures are plaine againſt them, *Deut.*4.15,19. *Eſay* 40.18. *Acts* 17.20. *Rom.*1.23. The ſecond Commandement, in the Decalogue, forbids them, which our aduerſaries hid from the people in their vulgar Catechiſmes. Our corrupt nature is apt to theſe things, and therefore the leſſe to be liked of. Againſt Images, and their worſhip.

They teach to pray vnto the Virgin Marie, *to Saints and Angels.* The Scriptures affoord no precept for this, nor any euident example: prayers there are taught to be made vnto God: Angels are not to be worſhipped, *Col* 2.18. *Reuel.*19.10. & 22.9. The Lords Prayer, the perfect rule of prayer, teacheth vs to pray to God our Father in Heauen, whenſoeuer we pray: now, can wee ſay to the Virgin *Marie*, to Saint, or Angell, *Our Father which art in Heauen?* Can we pray to any of them, and ſay, Thy Name be hallowed, thy Kingdome come, thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heauen? Can we pray any one of them, to giue vs daily bread, to forgiue vs our ſinnes, to deliuer vs from euill? Can we aſcribe to any one of them, and ſay, Thine is Kingdome, power and glory for euer? Yet this prayer warrants vs, that to whom in Heauen we may pray, to him may we ſay all this: but if not to the Virgin *Marie*, not to Saint, nor Angell, then may wee not pray to them by any warrant of this prayer. Our Creed teacheth vs to beleeue in none, but God the Father, Sonne, and holy Ghoſt. Now the Scripture plainely telleth vs, that wee cannot pray to any, but in whom wee beleeue, *Rom.*10.14. Therefore then not to the Virgin *Marie*, nor to Saint nor Angell, becauſe we are not to beleeue in them. Againſt praying to Saints. Matth.6.

They tell thee, that thou muſt beleeue the Romane Catholike Church, and to be alſo a member thereof, elſe thou canſt not be ſaued. The Scriptures tell vs plainely, that God added to the Church ſuch as ſhould be ſaued, *Acts* 2.47. but not a word there of the Romane Church. In our Creed, wee are taught to beleeue the Catholike Church, and that we be members of it, but to bee of any Romane Catholike Church, is no Article of our Creed. Beſides, the ſpeech is abſurd, and it is againſt reaſon, to call a parti- Againſt the Romaniſts, condemning all that are not of their Church.

cular Church the generall, or the generall a particular, as the Church of Rome in the beſt eſtate of it neuer was other. And can the obiect of faith be the obiect of ſight, as it is the obiect of faith? Now we belieue the Catholike Church, but the Papiſts tell vs, that their Church is euer viſible to the eye. This alſo which they ſay, is againſt common charitie: for muſt all out of the Church of Rome, be without hope of ſaluation? In the planting of the Goſpell, there was a Church at Ieruſalem, before any at Rome, and many Churches planted by Saint *Paul*, which neuer had dependance vpon the Church of Rome; many Churches in the Eaſt, and other parts of the World, which are not within the Romane iuriſdiction, nor doe not acknowledge it; muſt needs all theſe be without ſaluation, becauſe the Romane Pope is not domineering ouer them? Now God forbid.

Againſt their vrging as neceſſary, to make a Catalogue of our profeſſors in all Ages.

They wil tell thee, that thou muſt be able to ſhew thy Church, and the profeſſors thereof in euery age, elſe thou art not of the true Church. But the holy Scriptures neuer bound any to ſuch a task, neither Chriſt, nor his Apoſtles in all the new Teſtament euer charged any Chriſtian Church, much leſſe any beleeuer with this. It is an Article of thy Faith, to belieue, that there is a Church of God here and there diſperſed abroad in the World. This is a man bound to beleeue, but not that euery one, or any other for him, ſhould be able to make a Catalogue of all that went before in the ſame profeſſion in euery Age. One ignorant of this, may yet be of the true Church, neither ſhall the ignorance thereof damne him.

Againſt their error of veniall ſinnes.

They will tell thee, that there are ſome ſinnes in Nature veniall in themſelues, not deſeruing eternall death. The Scripture teacheth otherwiſe, *Rom.* 6. 23. The wages of ſinne is death, no exception of any at all. Yea, the conſent of ſinne is worthy of death, *Rom.* 1. 33. In the Lords Prayer, when we craue pardon of our treſpaſſes without exception, wee thereby acknowledge, that euery kind of treſpaſſe offendeth God, ſtandeth need of forgiuenes, and therefore what elſe would follow, if he did not forgiue it, but death? This falſe diſtinction giueth libertie to our corrupt nature to ſinne, as experience tels euery of vs, euen in our aduerſaries, wallowing licenciouſly in their ſuppoſed veniall ſinnes. It may ſeeme vnreaſonable, if there be ſinnes veniall in their

their owne nature, that ſuch a horrible ſcorching fire, as they make that in Purgatorie to bee, ſhould bee prepared to plague ſoules for the ſame. The greateſt torments in the world, as they ſay, are not comparable to the torments there: How can it then be poſſibly imagined, that veniall ſinnes, which, as they ſay, doe not breake friendſhip with God, ſhould be ſo terribly puniſhed, by way of ſatisfaction, and yet God remaine to him, who is ſo puniſhed, a ſure friend?

They teach, that a man hath power to doe Gods will, and to auoide euill, and not be ouercome thereof, if he will. The Scriptures tell vs, that it is God that workes the will and the deed, *Phil.* 2. 13. and maketh all our ſufficiency to be of him, 2. *Cor.* 3. 5. In the Lords Prayer, wee are taught to beg of God ability to doe his will, and his grace, to deliuer from euill: vnder will, is comprehended all good; and vnder euill, is contained whatſoeuer is ſinfull, ſo as it is not in vs to doe good, nor to auoyde euill, but both is Gods worke in vs. Euery man feeleth this inabilitie in himſelfe by experience; yea, theſe alſo which doe maintaine this power in man, if they would confeſſe it. And why are they not all moſt holy, if they haue this power? Their damnation is more iuſt, when they ſinne in any meaſure, then ſuch as want this power, though they fall by infirmitie into greater ſinnes. Againſt mans power to doe will.

They teach, that a man may fulfil the whole Law, and ſo merit. The Scripture teacheth otherwiſe, *Luke* 17. 10. *Eccleſ.* 7. 20. *Prou.* 20. 9. *Pſal.* 130. 3. *Iob* 9. 20. 1. *Ioh.* 1. 8. *Iam.* 3. 2. In the Lords Prayer, we aske all of vs forgiueneſſe. In the Creed wee are taught, not to dreame here of perfection, or of merit, but to beleeue the forgiueneſſe of ſinnes. And in reading the Law truly vnderſtood, it doth cauſe a mans conſcience, euen in the beſt, to acknowledge himſelfe guiltie. Againſt their error of mans abilitie to fulfill the Law.

I might heere goe thorow many other points which they teach, to which from either plaine Scriptures, or from the Catechiſme, or from theſe conſiderations, thou maiſt make anſwere in thine owne defence. But yet for all this (though thou alſo haſt gotten helpe to ſtand for thy ſelfe) beware of Seducers, run not eaſily into diſputes with them, but rather put them ouer to learned men to be anſwered. It is not good for *Eue* for to fall into conference with the ſubtill Serpent. Bee bold vpon theſe grounds

grounds with ordinarie Papists, if they will attempt to set vpon thee: but consider thy abilitie, presume not aboue thy measure, continue in Gods Word, and the Lord will vphold thee.

To whose blessed guide and Fatherly protection, I commit thee. Pray we all continually.

FINIS.